LIBERIA.

A republic founded by black men, reared by black men, maintained by black men, and which holds out to our hope the brightest prospects.—HENRY CLAY.

BULLETIN No. 29. NOVEMBER, 1906.

ISSUED BY THE

AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

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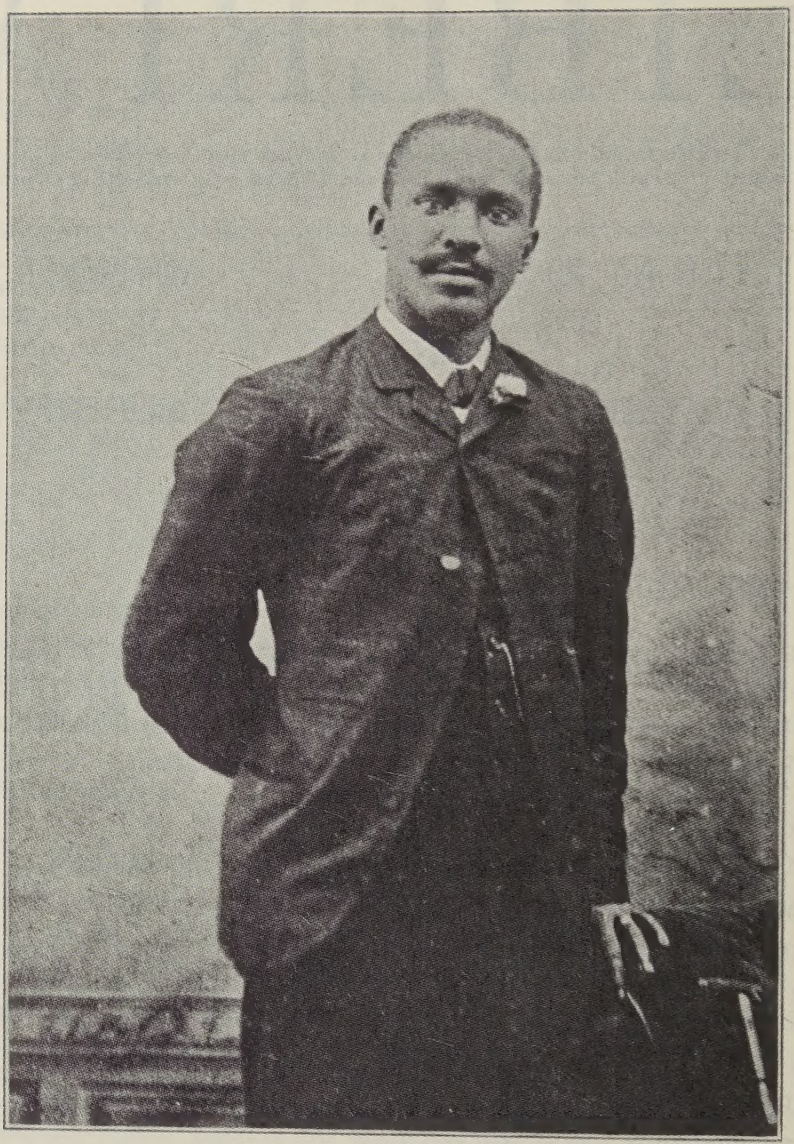

HON. D. E. HOWARD

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, LIBERIA

LIBERIA.

BULLETIN No. 29. NOVEMBER, 1906.

MESSAGE TO THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE.

BY PRESIDENT ARTHUR BARCLAY.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, MONROVIA, LIBERIA.

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

In accordance with the will of the people expressed at the last biennial election, you, members of the Thirtieth Legislature, have assembled here today to receive the Annual Executive Communication directed by the Constitution.

With sincere pleasure I tender you friendly greetings, and trust that a sympathetic accord may be found to exist between the Legislature and the Executive on all questions conducive to public welfare and national progress. To the discharge of the high office to which you have been elected by the people of Liberia, it is to be hoped that you bring patriotism, candor, courage, and a desire to be thoroughly informed on all business of a public nature to which your attention may be directed, either by the Executive or by the constituencies which you represent.

I must caution you to sift with great care the allegations and representations of persons whose views on matters of public concern have not received the stamp of popular approval While I am unwilling that the voice of the minority should altogether be stifled in a Democratic State, yet members of the Legislature, before according preference to views which they were not understood to favor when standing for election, should be sure that they represent a sincere patriotism, are really sound and progressive, and are not put forward for purposes of political obstruction or private pique.

I trust therefore that your legislative action will be along lines universally recognized as making for national development and

advancement, and that your official term may mark the initiation of an epoch to be memorable in the annals of our beloved country.

Since the last session of the Legislature death has deprived the Republic of the service of the Hon. J. D. Summerville, late Vice-President. He passed away on the 27th of July last. He was very popular in the country of Grand Bassa, where he held a leading position and many offices of trust from early manhood. He had attracted the attention of the country and was considered eligible for the highest post in the gift of the people. I condole particularly with the Senate of the Republic on the loss of its distinguished chief, and mourn with the people of the country the premature departure of a useful and eminent public servant.

The unexpected demise of Hon. J. C. Johnson, a Senator representing Montserrado county in the National Legislature, has also been a matter of general regret.

The death of Mr. Summerville a few days after his re-election to the Vice-Presidency and some months before the completion of his second term has caused some agitation, and much discussion and inquiry as to whether an election ought not to be held to supply the vacancy. The very discussion shows that by many apparently otherwise well informed persons the Constitution has not been carefully read and studied.

The Vice-President is an executive officer. He is elected every two years. There is no provision in the Constitution for filling vacancies in the office of President and Vice-President, other than at the regular biennial election. The reason of this is not hard to discover when we remember that general elections are everywhere a very disturbing incident in the otherwise smooth current of national life.

Referring to article 3 of the Constitution under the head Executive Power, section 2, we find the following provisions:

"There shall be a Vice-President, who shall be elected in the same manner and for the same term as that of the President, and whose qualifications shall be the same. He shall be President of the Senate and give the casting vote when the latter is equally divided on any subject. And in case of the removal of the President from office, or his death, resignation or inability to discharge the duties of said office, the same shall devolve on the Vice-President; *and the Legislature may by law provide for the cases of removal, death, resignation* or inability both of the President and Vice-President, declaring *what officer* shall then act as

President and such officer shall act accordingly until the disability be removed or a President shall be elected."

This section of the Constitution has apparently been well understood by the Legislature. For many years the Speaker of the House was the officer designated, but within the last five years the Secretary of State, an appointment, by the way, very much in the interest of the State, since he (the Secretary of State) was more likely to have a better knowledge of the policy, business, and intention of the Administration than the Speaker of the House could possibly have, that officer residing at the capital only about three months of each year.

Under present circumstances and existing laws it is the Secretary of State who will succeed to the Presidency in case of the death, removal or inability of the President, and he will have the legal succession until the first Monday in January, 1908, unless otherwise ordered by the Legislature.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Our intercourse and relations with foreign powers during the year have been most friendly.

The Government has continued its efforts to secure from the French Republic the appointment of a commission for delimitating the frontier between its possessions in this part of Africa and those of our Republic. It having been discovered that the geographical data in accord with which the eastern frontier, the Cavalla basin, was to have been delimitated were in some respects erroneous, it has been found necessary to arrive at a fresh agreement with regard thereto. As soon as an accord can be reached, the delimination will doubtless proceed.

The Hon. E. W. Blyden was during the year appointed our Minister near the Government of the French Republic in succession to Baron von Stein, and proceeded to his post.

The Legislature is asked to consider the feasibility of providing for the appointment of a citizen of Liberia as the diplomatic representative of the Republic, jointly accredited to the governments of Great Britian, France, and the German Empire with an office at the capital of each power. It is considered that such an

appointment for the reasons given in my last message would be of great public utility. The cost of such a mission would be at the least $8,000 per year.

The union between the Kingdom of Sweden and Norway has been dissolved. The newly elected King of Norway, Haakon VII, has notified the Government of Liberia of his accession and has expressed the hope that the best understanding may exist between the two States.

The survey of the coast of Liberia by H. M. S. "Gold-finch" was carried on during the first half of the year as far as Junk River. The "Gold-finch" reached Bassa in the month of November and has resumed the survey.

THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

The Postmaster General's report, which will be laid before you shortly, exhibits the gratifying progress which that branch of the public service continues to make. It will show that between the years 1895 and 1905 the number of letters, ordinary and registered, transmitted through the post office has doubled, without reference to the parcel post, money order, and other branches. The post office in most countries is so worked as to afford a profit and thus benefit the national exchequer. In Liberia this desirable result has never yet been attained. The Government is desirous with your assistance to bring this about.

The appropriation for maintenance of the postal service aggregates $10,000 yearly. This does not include rents, an item which is being rapidly reduced by the erection of buildings belonging to the State, fees for mail conveyance, contribution to central bureau of Berne, cost of printing stamps, fees due other postal administrations. The postal revenue for the present year amounts to $11,577.65. In order to reach at least an equilibrium between receipts and expenses, the postal revenue should be increased by at least $1,500 or $2,000.

Successive chiefs of the postal service, with a view to the increased revenue, have suggested the enactment of a stamp act. But hitherto the Legislature has ignored the proposal. Have members ever stopped for a moment to consider the enormous utility of the postal service to the commerce, comfort, and convenience of the people inhabiting the State?

Let it be closed for a month and the inconvenience would be felt in every home. An institution of such value to the people of the State must be kept up by their contributions. We are now supporting the post office partly out of the customs.

This is quite unnecessary. I again solicit your favorable consideration for the proposal of the Postmaster General in this particular.

The Postmaster General is also anxious to institute a deposit and postal savings bank of the character generally conducted by postal administrations in most civilized communities. Such an institution will certainly promote a habit of thrift, and consequently of economy, among our people, to the great ultimate benefit of the whole community. If the Faulkner telephone service has collapsed or should collapse, I suggest that the Postal Department be charged with its eventual re-establishment as a branch of the postal service.

THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Among the subjects to which the Attorney General will call attention will be the legal status of the Liberian paper currency. The history of this paper currency is interesting as showing that a paper currency of little value and reputation always tends to displace in the circulation of a country other currency of greater worth and of superior international value. Originally issued as redeemable at the Treasury in gold, it was so manipulated as that it took the place in the monetary circulation of the country of the coin which it was designed to represent. It became the subject of speculation and for the note, which the revenue officers of the State received at its treasuries as representing a gold dollar, its employees could get only 50 cents, and often much less.

It was of no value, of course, in the commerce of the country. The Legislature finally ordered that the word gold be left out of the demand note, and by a series of successive enactments between 1878 and 1892 practically demonetized the currency at its treasuries, while providing for its gradual retirement from circulation.

While its position as between the Government and its creditors is well understood, and currency is known not to be a legal tender

in payment from the Treasury, unless at the option of public creditors, it is in the domain of private credit that this paper has given the most annoyance and has done the most harm. Under existing laws as construed and applied by the courts of the Republic, the Liberian debtor is given an unfair advantage over both his domestic and his foreign creditors. He may and often does pay his judgment debt in this useless and depreciated paper, of no commercial value for the purpose of exchange, and which cannot be cashed at the Treasury for gold, or turned into gold by methods recognized everywhere. It does seem to the Government that it is the duty of the Legislature by appropriate enactment to place debtor and creditor on a plane of absolute fairness and equality. If the citizen of Liberia is given in any way, by the court of his country, an unfair advantage over his foreign creditors, especially, and it becomes universally recognized that this is so, why the credit of the country as between man and man will suffer severely and eventually reach a vanishing point. Of course, many citizens of Liberia do pay their creditors in gold; but all the same, the tenor of judicial decision is that a debt may be paid in paper currency. It seems, therefore, that we must do one of two things, either to further demonetize the currency and so make it unavailable for payment of debts, or exchange it at our Treasury for gold.

This is really a far more important matter than might appear at first sight. Liberia is recognized as one of the countries whose basis of exchange is gold. The credit which its people may enjoy, their reputation for honesty, is an asset of great value, for private credit can often, at a crisis, be utilized to great advantage in the service of a country, A strict observance of their engagements, on behalf of our people, as well as of residents in our territory, ought to be fostered and encouraged by the trend of legislative enactment as well as of judicial decision.

THE DIVORCE LAW.

I think that the recent law providing that judgments in divorce cases may be rendered *pro confesso* upon proof of summons of defendant is too lax. Parties returned as summoned under this law have complained that they knew nothing of the

proceedings in court until after judgment. It seems to me a great mistake to allow a divorce to be granted without the court having had evidence before it supporting the allegations of the plaintiff.

Another mistake is to allow divorces to be obtained by agreement or collusion of parties. Where such agreement is suspected the county attorney might intervene. A third improvement wished for, especially where the facts are unsavory, is that such cases be heard by the court *in camera.*

It has been noticed, too, that many successful plaintiffs never apply for their bills of divorcement (out of 68 successful suitors only 32 did so), and in many cases do not pay the costs of the proceeding other than the jury fee of $3. I recommend that justices of the peace or ministers of the gospel be not allowed to marry divorced persons unless the license be accompanied by a bill of divorcement from previous husband or wife, or a properly authenticated copy thereof. It may be interesting to consider the statistics of marriage and divorce among the civilized people living in Montserrado county between the Little Cape Mount and Farmington Rivers for the last six years. In the year 1900 there were 83 marriages and 11 divorces; 1901, 91 marriages, 10 divorces; 1902, 60 to 12; 1903, 90 to 10; 1904, 92 to 12; 1905, 60 to 13. In all 476 marriages to 68 divorces, or roughly an average of 10 per cent.

An amendment of the law forbidding private warfare has been found desirable. The law may now be so construed as to inflict punishment upon the man who instigates the disturbances, if he can be discovered, but not upon his instruments.

I should be glad to have the Legislature restrain by statute the discretionary powers exercised by the county attorneys to enter a *nol pros* in criminal cases. I conceive that this ought not to be *allowed* unless upon the written authority of the Attorney General. Nor ought prosecuting attorneys be permitted to have assistants unless by authority of the head of the department.

There has been considerable waste of public money in this direction. It ought not to be forgotten that while the admission to public office opens up to a citizen of the country a series of new duties and opportunities, the acceptance of office involves certain limitations upon his freedom of action and his conduct.

There are many things which are perhaps not unlawful in the action of public functionaries, but which are clearly improper and inexpedient.

The Executive Government has noted with deep regret that members of the Legislature have felt themselves at liberty to appear for and defend defaulting local officials who were indicted by the grand jury of their respective counties for fraud upon the revenue. The impressions which are created by this action upon and among the masses ought to be carefully pondered, for it must not be lost sight of that the officials accused were recommended in some instances for office by the members who defended them. The situation created by the action now commented on is exceedingly delicate. Is this not a case in which the legal members of the Legislature ought to agree to a self-denying ordinance? I think so, and recommend the passage of an act forbidding members of the Legislature appearing as counsel for public officials criminally charged for official misconduct.

The aims of the present Government in its administration of the Interior Department are: 1st. To make the native population feel sure that the State recognizes and will grant to them a title for as much and contiguous to their settlements as will suffice for all their reasonable purposes. 2d. To provide for the local government of the country by the establishment of townships formed around some well known native town, the governing body being selected by the natives themselves. 3d. To form districts each containing a number of such townships to be presided over by officers of limited judicial powers invested with authority to review cases decided in the local courts of the native chiefs and to settle disputes between townships and different tribes and to hinder and remove the cases of inter-tribal warfare. 4th. To utilize the chiefs to assist in the administration, either in connection with commissioners or alone, as may seem best. 5th. To form a police force for the preservation of public order and for guarding and keeping open the principal roads and for the protection of industry and peaceful trade. 6th. To so arrange for the government and control of our territories as to make our occupation of same fairly effective. 7th. To select and train a suitable body of public servants for service in the Interior Department, persons possessing ability, courage, tact, resource,

patience and perserverance, and to effect these aims without bloodshed and with the least possible friction. Time, continuity of purpose and action, and infinite patience will be required for the full realization of these aims. What I deprecate is the spirit of impatience manifested by many of our people. Impatience has no place in a scheme of constructive statesmanship of this sort. It is along these lines that the Government has been proceeding. As at last session, I again request the passage of a resolution giving the President power to lay out and proclaim township within the scope of existing laws.

The Government, in the interest of the State, deemed it wise to dispatch during last year an expedition to the Liberian territory contiguous to French frontier. The expedition was placed in charge of Lieut. W. D. Lomax, who was appointed our commissioner in that part of the hinterland. Lieutenant Lomax proceeded northeast until he reached the French post of Singenou on the borders of French Guinea. He returned in the month of March of the present year. His report, if you so desire, will be laid before you. Mr. Vinton, our special commissioner in the hinterland of Maryland county, assisted by Hon. E. M. Cummings, has been engaged with success in maintaining and extending the interest of the Republic in that part of the Republic.

The robber Tumbo, who raided the Little Bassa district at the end of the last year, was, in accordance with the resolution of the Legislature, followed up, surrounded, and forced to submit. He and his accomplices have been duly tried, convicted, and executed.

In the month of February, accompanied by the Secretary of the Treasury, Attorney General and Postmaster General, I went on a visit of inspection to the Territory of Grand Cape Mount. A meeting of the chiefs of the Vey country and of the adjacent Golah districts was held. They were asked to state any grievances they had. Where it was possible to meet their wishes, the Government did so. They asked that the shipment of boys from the Territory of Grand Cape Mount cease for the reason that the population was too sparse. At one time, it will be remembered, the Vey country was a well populated district, but for a period of twenty years or more previous to 1893 it was remorselessly raided by the Mendi people from the Gallinas. I accordingly

gave instructions that no laborers should be shipped through the local officials from the Vey country. Having assigned to the paramount chiefs present the districts to be governed by them under the supervision of the superintendent of the Territory, I next explained the new arrangement about the district commissioners and especially the reasons for placing an officer at Dah, a town on the borders of the Golah and Mendi country and a great center from which raids were formerly made. Instructions were then given for cutting out some new and improving some old roads in accordance with an act passed at the session 1893-'94. We remained at Robertsport sixteen days. Our visit is understood to have given satisfaction and to have been beneficial to the Territory. The superintendent is now often requested to station members of the police force in native towns. The Vey and contiguous districts are perfectly quiet and contented. Superintendent R. J. B. Watson, a valuable officer, has been most tactful and considerate in his dealing with the native population. His long service to the Territory of Grand Cape Mount in the capacity of superintendent has been of great advantage to the State.

At the beginning of the year the Gissi, a rather savage tribe living near the Anglo-Liberian boundary, headed by a chief called Kafura, made a series of destructive raids into British territory. As we were unable at the time to despatch a force to restrain these people, I gave permission to the British authorities to send a force into the territory of the Republic for the purpose. The force was stationed some twenty miles within Liberian territory. Means having been found to pacify the country by inviting the native population to elect a new chief, to which it assented, the force was withdrawn in the month of July.

The presence of a permanent official on the Upper Kru Coast having been found very beneficial, a similar officer has been appointed for the Lower Kru Coast extending from Sasstown to Garraway. The large smuggling operations carried on by the steamships of the Elder Dempster Line cause a great loss of revenue, and make it necessary to have the Kru Coast again patrolled by gunboats. At the same time it is considered desirable to get a firm grip on the leaders of the native population in that section. As soon as the smuggling is repressed and condi-

tions are satisfactory, I hope that the Legislature will see its way to make both Sasstown and Grand-Cess ports of entry. There is a very large population at both places, and they should be allowed to participate in the benefits of the foreign trade.

Pressure has been brought to bear upon the chiefs of the Belli-Pesseh and Gibbee tribes with the view of putting an end to the troubles in those sections, and it is believed that the efforts of the Government will shortly be met with success.

MONROVIA.

I have always felt that the Legislature, considering that Monrovia is the capital of the Republic, have treated the place from that standpoint with too much indifference. It has, it is true, a mayor and corporate body, but its local revenue is insufficient for the purposes of a capital. A great many strangers, all the representatives, naval, military, and diplomatic of foreign powers, visit this town and perhaps go to no other part of the country. The State is very largely appraised by the appearance and condition of its capital. I recommend that a member of the Cabinet be invested with consultative power with the mayor and council, and that the sum of one thousand dollars be expended yearly under the direction of the President for the improvement of the town.

EDUCATION.

I have nothing special to report on this subject. Things have been moving on under conditions which have not varied since my last message. Liberia College continues to do excellent work and to deserve the support so wisely accorded it.

Denominational schools, such as the College of West Africa, Cuttington Institute, are doing good work and I trust that any assistance desired will, where possible, be extended to them. I renew the recommendations under this head, with which the Legislature at its last session, I presume, did not have time to deal with. I refer you to my last message, copies of which will be transmitted to you.

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE.

The report of the Commissioner will be laid before you. Agriculture must be the principal industry of this State. It must,

however, be adequately assisted by capital, to which fact the report very properly calls attention.

While I agree that our people might do more, for they could perhaps plant sufficient stuff to feed the community, yet it seems never to be taken into account that the proper cultivation of say ten acres of land planted with some agricultural product in commercial demand will involve the yearly expenditure of at least two hundred dollars, and that there is no monetary institution or business house, at present, who deems it wise to make regular advances to farmers. Unless some way can be found out of the difficulty our agriculture will never be of much value. I trust some of the useful suggestions made in the report will have your approval.

THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury will show that the receipts from all sources for the fiscal year ended September 30 have amounted to $295,646.89 and the disbursements to $286,426.73. The report of the registrars of the public debt will show that up to June 1 the amount registered was $361,493.18, summed up as follows: Bonds, $112,334.51; checks, $111,143; currency, $20,042.41; treasury drafts, $50,503.05; bills, $77,-670.21. Of this debt over $200,000 is held in Montserrado county. Taking out the bonds and the currency, for which means of absorption is already provided, the checks, treasury drafts, and bills amount to $229,116.16. At least $40,000 of this amount was required to meet payments due the treasury for June quarter, because the account was taken in the midst of the quarter, and this would show that the statement made in my last message that the floating debt is estimated at under $200,000 and less than a year's income turned out fairly accurate. For further information respecting finances and the data for a budget, I refer the Legislature to pp. 16, 17 and 18 of my last message.

CUSTOMS.

Referring to the customs I believe that specific duties ought to be imposed on as many articles as possible. There is so much uncertainty about the true price of articles on which advalorem duties are leviable.

The interest due on the English 7 per cent. loan, 1871, has been regularly paid as will appear by the following quotation from the report of the Committee of Foreign Bondholders, London, for the present year:

"The service of the external debt has been carried out without interruption during the period which has elapsed since the publication of the Council's last report, the coupons which matured on the 1st of October, 1904, and 1st of April, 1905, having been paid on their due dates. Bonds to the nominal amount of £800 have been purchased by the Liberian Government on account of the sinking fund of 1 per cent., which came into operation from 1st of October, 1904.

"The coupon due 1st of October, 1905, is payable at the increased rate of 4 per cent."

The October coupon referred to above has been paid. It is calculated that if the interest saved by purchasing bonds for amortization, allowing of course for the rise in price of the bonds, now quoted at £77, be regularly added to the amortization fund, the loan will be fully paid up in 35 years.

The complaints made by Liberion laborers returning from the Spanish island of Fernando Po impelled the Government to dispatch an officer to that place to report on the conditions. Attorney General F. E. R. Johnson accepted the mission. A resident Liberian consul was found to be absolutely necessary, and the Government is endeavoring by means of an agreement with the Spanish Government to give further necessary protection to our people in the Spanish possessions. Yet the laborers who complained would not come home when offered passage. It was also discovered that many gambled away their earnings.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Grants for rebuilding and enlarging the Representative Hall and the Executive Mansion and for building jails in Montserrado and Grand Bassa counties are urgently necessary. The buildings in use as jails have been, more than once, presented as unsuitable and unsanitary by the grand juries of those counties.

The country has outgrown the present Executive Mansion. Purchased over fifty years ago, it has now become too small for the social and official purposes of the Government. I may men-

tion in passing that it has only one decent bed-room and there is not a room in the house in which a hundred persons can be entertained at once.

The Representative Hall ought to have, beside the apartment for sessions of the House, at least a lobby, two committee-rooms, and a room for reading and writing, in which a small reference library could be placed for the use of members and officers.

It would be best to appropriate a certain sum each year until the buildings are completed rather than to put down a lump sum for each building.

I recommend the abolition of the office of Inspector of Public Buildings in the three leeward counties. They are, at present, of no service. I would like to secure the appointment of a Commissioner of Internal Revenue, an officer who will arrange for and oversee the proper collection and payment into the Treasury of taxes, fines and other items of internal revenue, now I fear imperfectly looked after. The work of the Treasury Department has increased very much in the last ten years, and is rather undermanned than otherwise. Do not forget that the heads of departments are their brain. These men are put there to do the thinking, planning and directing. They are not employed as copyists.

I have secured a loan of $480,000.00 to be applied to certain specific purposes, provided the Legislature approves of the conditions prescribed. It will enable us to place our finances on a better footing and pay off in whole or part the creditors whose paper is choking the Treasury and preventing the circulation of specie. If an arrangement can be arrived at, then I ask as a part of the scheme that all salaries and allowances be retrenched at least 20 per cent. I believe that if this matter is arranged the Government will see its way to obtain the gunboat so urgently needed on the Lower Kru Coast. A special message will be presented on the subject. And also in regard to a timber concession asked for, I am informed, by American capitalists.

It has been conceded for over fifty years by all leading men of Liberia that the introduction of foreign capital is necessary for the development of the country. We must remember that capitalists have to be cautious and are especially so with regard to investments in little known and undeveloped countries. They commence with comparatively small sums. If the venture turns

out all right, then they take greater risks and increase their investments. Do not let us be deluded with the idea that we can borrow millions of money at will.

I am particularly anxious to avoid a financial crisis, always a source of great economic and political danger to a State.

The heads of departments have prepared and will transmit speedily to the Legislature the reports required by laws of the country. I gratefully acknowledge the zealous co-operation of members of the Cabinet and leading officials in the work of the administration.

And now, in conclusion, fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives, I trust that unity in all things *essential* and *charity* in matters about which you differ will mark the work of your present session. Liberia and the Liberians have been and are *still* on trial. To the outsider and onlooker our national life, so far as it has proceeded, has been made up of personal struggles about things in their nature very petty. We have called men to the leadership of the country, in most cases, only to annoy, humiliate, and pull them down.

Our attitude toward the chiefs of the State has been invariably one of suspicion.

Absorbed in petty factional fights (for there is no room for real party government in this country at present) we have neglected and shirked the real problems of the country. Earnest men of our race are becoming discouraged. The patriotism, wisdom, energy, and public spirit of the Legislature is being more and more questioned by the masses, because of the lines on which it proceeds, and because the results attained do not appear adequately to advance the prosperity of the country.

Detractors often unjustly hold up Liberia and Haiti as instances of the incapacity of the Negro for self-government, by which of course they can only mean the Negro who has been in exile and his descendants. And it is a fact that we do not represent ourselves alone in this national experiment. Consider what our success or our failure will mean for the race. If there have been mistakes in the past, it is never too late to mend. May you therefore proceed to your labors, and address yourselves to a solution of national problems, as men conscious and mindful of being charged with a weighty responsibility.—*Liberia and West Africa.*

THE NEGRO OF TODAY—HIS PROSPECTS AND HIS DISCOURAGEMENTS.

JOEL CHANDLER HARRIS.

It was not so long ago that he has forgotten it that a friend of mine from the North called on me—sought me out, so to say, on my snap-bean farm—and, without the least apology, renewed a discussion that had been broken off several years before by a railway time-table which informed me that I had just time to catch an outgoing train from New York. As the train was headed for the South it was hardly necessary for me to apologize for interrupting the discussion in a somewhat summary way; and so it hung in the air by loose ends for several years until my friend, with pardonable impatience, determined to have the matter out with me on ground of my own choosing.

Meanwhile, much to the surprise of both of us, our positions had been reversed. In New York he was of the opinion that if the South gave the Negro half a chance he would show what metal he was made of, while I, at the time and place aforesaid, could see no haven for the future of the Negro.

My friend had whirled through parts of the South in a Pullman car, had viewed the situation from the flying window, and had come to the conclusion that the Negro had no future. Indeed, there was not much future for anybody in this region, though he was willing to admit that Atlanta had a smart appearance. His pessimism reached out over the Negro and embraced the poor whites, the tackies, the crackers, and all others of that class.

Now, in discussing the Negro question with my friend at the North I had been compelled in self-defense to put forward views that were foreign to my mind and belief. I had supposed that they would be accepted as half-humorous hinges for the discussion to swing back and forth upon; but I found that they had not only been taken seriously, but had been adopted bodily; and I was extremely sorry, for my friend is a genuine philanthropist, full of love for all things human.

I soon discovered why his views had changed, and the reason

was such a small one that I could but laugh behind my hand. He had been made the astonished victim of the insolence of a Negro porter of a sleeping car. What the porter said or did I was never able to discover, but it was something that had the effect of shocking the sensibilities of my friend. It was in vain that I tried to convince him that the porter belonged to one of the classes of irresponsibles that are to be found in every race on the face of the globe; the porter was a Negro and fitted in well with the other fleeting glimpses of various individuals of the colored race; and that was the end of it so far as my Northern friend was concerned—the end of it, that is to say, for a time, for since then I have seen his name in a list of those who had made liberal contributions to aid the practical education of the Negro in the South.

I have mentioned my friendly discussion with this Northerner for the purpose of emphasizing the fact that it is the little things that count in the formation of opinions. A stranger in the South sees the helpless array of loafers, both white and colored, at the railway stations, and he comes to the conclusion that the whole population is thriftless and shiftless; he visits a city, and he observes the Negro barbers and the hotel waiters performing their antic follies on the guitar or zither, or he witnesses the insolence of a Negro porter, and he concludes that all the Negroes are of the same irresponsible order.

But it is not so, nor even measurably so. The guitar and zither players and the crap-shooters are all parts of the furniture of the house of sorrows, and I suppose have a definite place in the scheme of Providence; but it is this class of irresponsibles that is made to stand for the race in the comic papers where the "coon" plays a leading part.

One thing is certain: when we come to form our conclusions and make up our judgment on the testimony of little things we make a confession of prejudice and intolerance, and we find it impossible to take a broad and catholic view of the whole question, whatever it may be. We cannot fairly judge a race, or a country, or a religious institution, or a social organization, or society itself—nay, not even the Republic in which we take pride—unless we measure it by the standards set up by the men who are its best representatives. Unless we judge every human

institution by its best products, instead of its worst, we shall find ourselves far from the truth; and this being so, who are we that we shall judge the products of the Almighty by their worst, instead of their best, results?

During the course of our talk at the snap-bean farm many things that deserve consideration in an article of this kind were touched on. There were some things that my friend could look straight in the face, and he mentioned—though without any display of regret—that there was a kind of mysterious periodicity with respect to the South's attitude toward the Negro. Sometimes he would read in the newspapers of the day that the Negroes were getting along as well as could be expected—in fact far better than any one could have hoped under the circumstances; and then, within the course of a few short months, he would find in the same newspapers long articles going to show that, in spite of the fact that Northern philanthropists had poured out their money like water for the educational advancement of the Negro, he was going backward instead of forward; that his book-learning, such as he could imbibe, was unfitting him for the practical duties that his station would call on him to perform; that every student at a school meant a hand taken permanently from the cotton patch and the cornfield—and so forth and so on.

My friend is a very busy man at home, and I judged that he read the Southern newspapers, such as came his way, with more attention than he gave to those published next door; otherwise, he would have discovered, almost without any effort on his part, that the hopeful and friendly tone of the Southern newspapers at various times was usually coincident with an absence of agitation at the North on the Negro question, and *vice versa*—if I may be permitted to employ the choice dialect of Uncle Cæsar.

There can be no doubt that since the day of emancipation the negro has experienced the seamy side of justice; but who has been all along responsible for this state of things? There can be but one answer to this question; whatever form or system of injustice he has been made the victim of has been almost entirely due to the unwise and unnecessary crusade inaugurated in his behalf by the politicians of the North, who neither knew nor cared anything for the situation at the South. Indeed, there was a

time when Negro outrages at the South were deemed so essential to the welfare of these politicians that when real ones failed to occur their newspaper organs made a business of inventing them.

In addition to this, there was an assiduous effort made to convince the Negro that the Southern people were his worst enemies, bent on subjecting him to some form of permanent servitude. These things had their inevitable effect, and in many instances the Negro has been made to suffer for the folly of his political friends. These politicians, by way of showing what queer pranks ignorance—to call it by no severer name—can cut in the presence of great questions, endeavored to hand over to the Negro, but a few months from slavery, the reins of political power. They did this, they said, that he might be able to protect himself.

In pursuance of this policy they placed in his hands the governments of several States and kept him there for a time by means of American bayonets; but it was only for a time, for when the bayonets were withdrawn the Negro governments fell to pieces like houses of cards. This experiment was the beginning of all the troubles and difficulties that the Negro has been made the victim of. He, the poor tool, has been practically held responsible for all the ills and all the evils that have followed the effort to make him a citizen and a political power before his time.

The truth is, the responsibility of the Negro was no more than that of a little child who had wandered, quite by accident, into the halls of legislation, and remained, pleased at the novelty of the situation, and yet wondering what it was all about. Like a novice learning to play chess, he moved whatever pieces he was told to move, and when no one was observing him closely he moved others for his own amusement. Behind him was the imported carpet-bagger and the native scalawag, and these, receiving their orders from Washington, played havoc with things in general, and with the Negro in particular; and when it was thought that the temper of the Southern people had been tried to the utmost, and when there were no more State treasures to loot, carpet-bagger and scalawag retired to their original obscurity, leaving the unfortunate Negro to bear the brunt of the whole business.

If the politicians, who were the moving cause, had been filled

with undying hate for the Negro their attitude and acts would betray some show of consistency; but all of them were old enough to know something of human nature, and they knew that the outcome of their folly would manifest itself in some form of reprisal in the South; and when the reprisals came they were used as campaign material to keep the politicians in power. I am not referring to this matter in terms that my knowledge thereof would justify; if I were to do so I should be accused of carrying the discussion back to a weary time, when all was hate and confusion.

It was unfortunate, as a matter of course, that the South should have permitted itself to be goaded, or that it should have turned something more than a cold shoulder to the Negro, or that it should have allowed him to suffer for the sins of the white leaders; but the South has never claimed to be superior to human nature. In fact the people here have always had a little more than a fair share of human nature; and it would be too much to expect them, in the heat of the moment—and there have been many heated moments since the war—to rise superior to the instincts of human nature and practice the philosophy that has been commended to us by the wise men of all ages. In fact neither the South nor the North practices it, for it is one of the weaknesses of human nature that the average man, no matter what his race or his ambition, would rather perform a hasty act than deprive himself of the momentary pleasure of performing it.

It is, of course, possible to take a large view of the matter, and to say that whatever has happened to the Negro, and to the white man by his side, has been for the best, and will count as helpful elements in the future; but it is always so easy to dispose of doubtful human actions by saddling them bodily on Providence that I cannot but regret the foolish, futile and revengeful policy of the Northern politicians and the unreasonable irritability of the Southern people.

I believe that, at bottom, a majority of the American people are at one with respect to the negro and his future, and the reason I have for making the statement is a sound one, namely, that a large majority of the people of this country are blessed with common sense in a larger measure than those of any other country on the globe. This innate common sense has brushed away so

many difficulties, and solved so many problems, and carried the country safely through so many crises, and has come to the front in so many emergencies, that it may confidently be depended on in the future.

In saying this I do not lose sight of the fact that this element has been conspicuously absent in the political treatment of the Negro since the war. But I am convinced that this has been due to the ignorance of the average voter. Of late the North seems inclined to take a reasonable view of the difficulties by which the Negro is surrounded—difficulties that concern the white people of the South even more intimately than they do the rest of the country. These difficulties have been and are still very serious, and on many occasions they have been rendered acute by the blind policy of certain politicians, or by a newspaper controversy based on dense ignorance on one side and unreasoning irritability on the other.

If any one can show me that discussion or agitation of the Negro question or controversy over the political or social status of the Negro has tended in the slightest degree to improve his condition, or add to his welfare, or promote his best interests, I shall be the first to stir it up and hark it on and applaud its continuance; but I think that the contrary can be shown. I know that it has done harm. In the first place, as I have already said, it has always tended to irritate the South; and though I am willing to deplore such irritation as unnecessary, nevertheless I am bound to recognize the limitations of human nature, whether at the North or at the South. In the second place, this agitation, whether in the halls of Congress or in the newspapers, has had a tendency to give a majority of the Negroes totally false ideas as to their status in the communities in which they live—so much so that a majority of them have felt themselves to be divorced from the interests of the whites and therefore from their responsibilities as citizens, and they have felt it to be their duty to antagonize every policy that the whites have put forward.

But the Negro is not directly responsible for this attitude; it is a part of the first lessons that he learned from the carpet-baggers. At the very beginning of emancipation he was placed in a false position. When the Freedman's Bureau was in operation, and for a long time after it passed away, he considered him-

self the ward of the nation, and, if the truth were told, some such idea dimly haunts his dreams to this day. He was not only the ward of the nation, but he was to have special privileges, and in every contingency that arose he was to be taken care of.

Under the circumstances he was more than justified in drawing such a conclusion. He could point to hundreds of demonstrations and declarations in political campaigns, to exhortations in pulpits, to wild and whirling denunciations on the floor of Congress and elsewhere, and to the thousands of editorial articles from the pens of men absurdly ignorant of the damage they were doing. The Negro knew no better than to believe that he had been singled out for special favors at the hands of the Government, and it was, and is, a pity that he should have been held responsible for this belief.

The reader will say that I am repeating myself, but sometimes a little wholesome iteration is necessary where a fact is concerned, and the fact that I am emphasizing is responsible for all the misunderstanding that has arisen between the whites of the South and the Negroes. In spite of it all, however, the condition of the Negro has been steadily growing better. His relations with his white friends are no longer strained; he is beginning dimly to perceive that the welfare and progress of the individual is of more importance both to him and his neighbors than politics and promises that are made to be broken. He is beginning to realize that the best interests of all the members of the community in which he lives are also his best interests, and he is ordering his affairs accordingly. He is beginning to perceive that a Negro's surest road to the respect and confidence of the white man is along the old route of individual industry and thrift and general usefulness to the community that is useful to him; and he is discovering for himself that the material things that make for prosperity and progress are as close to the trained hand and brain of the Negro as they are to the hand of the white man.

Nevertheless, there are many Southern people who steadily refuse to believe that the Negro has any wholesome future before him, and some of them even write communications to the papers in order to demonstrate the shiftless characteristics of the race; and there are men of the highest character and intelligence who

claim that the two races can never live under the same government and in the same communities without inviting a race war on the one hand or amalgamation on the other, and that one or the other of these contingencies can only be averted by deportation to some country or territory where the Negro can have everything his own way. Moreover, there are to be found individual instances where the assertion is made that the Negro is going backward instead of forward; but individual instances of this kind are worth no more than the individuals themselves. In such cases you cannot argue from the particular to the general without doing wholesale injustice, for the facts are all the other way.

Then there is the subject of Negro education, and this is a fruitful source of pessimism. We are told that the average Negro is so incapable of taking an education that he cannot even attempt it without unfitting himself for those duties in which he has been most useful; and some go so far as to say that it destroys his usefulness altogether. We hear, also, that he is getting too much of what is called the higher education, and that the result is ruinous.

Again, there is complaint made that, although Booker Washington's Tuskegee Institute has been in successful operation for several years, and has made such progress as to arrest the attention of thoughtful men everywhere, he is not yet engaged in supplying our people with a superior article of house-servant. In short, it is possible to gather up numerous complaints of all kinds from various uneasy and contentious sources; and if you dispose of one another will soon fly in your face.

I know of a young Negro who is a good Latin scholar—and he helps his father make boots and shoes. This may be pretty bad, but if any one can show me that he makes a worse shoe with his Latin than he would without it I shall turn a readier ear to complaints that at present strike me as far-fetched. Moreover, although Booker Washington has entered into no contract, so far as I know, to supply the country with house and farm servants, his school would make small impression on the demand for those desirable adjuncts even if he sent out forty thousand graduates a year.

But I desire to call attention to a fact which, at first sight, seems to be of no importance, but which, on a closer view, be-

comes highly important. When it is said of the Negro that he is not capable of assimilating the learning taught in the schools, or that he is unable to utilize the benefits to be derived from education, there must be some standard by which he is measured or with which he is compared. Necessarily, that standard is the present capabilities of the white race; but how unjust to the Negro to compare his infantile efforts to the accomplishments of the white race! He is only about three centuries from a state of barbaric slavery in Africa compared with which his term of servitude in the United States was Christian freedom.

But if such a comparison is to be made, why not go back to the first forty years of the freedom of those who, in Great Britain, were held as serfs by England's invaders. There can be no doubt, though history has a gap here, that these English serfs were brothers to the ox, just as it has been said that the Negroes are brothers to the mule. If we are to make any comparisons at all, why not measure what the negro is doing with what our ancestors were doing at the same stage of development?

The Negro is of a different race, it is true, and his mind may fail to respond to the different processes of civilization and enlightenment; but this remains to be seen. It has not failed to respond thus far. He seems to be getting along remarkably well considering all the circumstances by which he has been surrounded. He is acquiring property quite rapidly, and in our modern civilization this faculty is regarded, whether rightly or not, as the highest possible test of progress.

The Negro is also acquiring an education, slowly, as a matter of course, but surely; and by so much as the minds of the present generation are prepared and equipped, by just so much will the minds of the generation to come be prepared to assimilate knowledge. Public opinion in the South—the opinion that controls and leads—has no such views with respect to the Negro, for the Southern States have spent millions and are still spending millions to educate the Negro.

So far as education is concerned, I am fully persuaded that both blacks and whites are getting too much of the wrong kind and not half enough of the right kind. There seems to be an educational craze on all sides that must be left to wear itself out. Such has been the nature of the popular clamor that the real

purpose of education has been lost sight of, and we are turning out heathen by the million, who enter on the business of life with the dimmest ideas of religion or morals.

Education for its own sake—the education that more than compensates for the time and effort necessary to acquire it—has been put bodily out of the schools.

And we are in such a furious hurry about the education that has become the national fetish, for the reason that it is quickly over with, that we are impatient with what the Negro has accomplished. We are placed in the position of expecting a race but a few years from the inevitable ignorance imposed on it by the conditions of slavery to make the most remarkable progress that the world has ever heard of; and when we discover that, in the nature of things, this is impossible, we shake our heads sadly, and are ready to lose heart and hope.

If Booker Washington is pointed out as an example of what may be done by a Negro who, in his youth, was in touch with slavery, the reply is that he is a phenomenon, and that, in the nature of things, we cannot expect the race to produce many such; or we are told that the white blood in his veins is a sufficient explanation of his remarkable career. But is it not true that a man like Booker Washington is an exception in any race? He is an orator of great power, a writer of unusual ability, and an extraordinary administrator of large and complicated interests. And as to his Negro blood, why not state the fact in a different way? Why does it not operate to hamper and hinder him?

I do not ask any one to share my hopefulness with respect to the Negro, nor is it necessary that the views I am putting forth should be accepted. There have been many developments of one sort and another well calculated to fatigue and disappoint and disgust those who are all the time hoping for the best. There have been among the Negroes manifestations of brutality unparalleled, so far as I know, since the dawn of civilization, and the reprisals that have been made are but the natural result of the horror that must fill the bosoms of the best men who are brought sharply face to face with such cruelty and bestiality. Both the crime and the nature of the reprisals are nauseating and horrible, but where there is one the other must be expected, even in the North.

And I see nothing promising in the attitude of the Negro race, as a whole, toward those who fall victims of their own bestiality, for, until very lately, the Negroes, especially the Negro preachers who have had a taste of politics, have been disposed to regard the Negro criminals as martyrs to race prejudice. This attitude has had a very bad effect on public opinion, and I consider it one of the main reasons for the pessimism with respect to the race that has of late been vented so freely.

The reason that I can afford to be hopeful in the matter lies in the fact that I am familiar with the history of a county in Middle Georgia where the Negroes have a majority of the population. In that county lynching is unknown because the particular crime that incites to lynching is unknown. Such a crime has never been committed in the county, and I mention the fact with considerable pride, for the reason that it is the county of my birth. It may be thought that this is a descent to the particular, but the point I desire to make is that the overwhelming majority of the Negroes in all parts of the South, especially in the agricultural regions, are leading sober and industrious lives.

A temperate race is bound to be industrious, and the Negroes are temperate, as compared with the whites. I am speaking, of course, of the Negroes on the farms, but even in the towns the majority of them are sober and industrious. The idle and criminal classes among them make a great show in the police-court records, but right here in Atlanta the respectable and decent Negroes far outnumber those who are on the lists of the police as old or new offenders.

I am bound to conclude from what I see all about me, and from what I know of the race elsewhere, that the Negro, notwithstanding the late start he has made in civilization and enlightenment, is capable of making himself a useful member in the communities in which he lives and moves, and that he is becoming more and more desirous of conforming to all the laws that have been enacted for the protection of society.

In the newspapers of the day there was recently printed a report of a meeting of prominent Negroes. Among other things a set of resolutions was adopted calling on the race to live morally and decently, and urging the heads of families to look sharply after the comings and goings of their children. Though it is

true that resolutions are not calculated to bring about a reform in this particular matter, they show that the representative Negroes have discovered the main source of trouble among the blacks. Having once seen the evil, is it too much to hope that they will finally provide a remedy for the immorality that now exists?—*"The Saturday Evening Post."*

BISHOP SCOTT TELLS OF LIBERIA AND HIS WORK IN AFRICA.

Liberia, as you know, is a Republic. Its government is modeled somewhat after the government of the United States, having a President elected to serve two years, a Legislature or Congress, and a Supreme Court. The Chief Justice has two associates on the supreme bench. The country has a coast line of about 300 miles and five principal ports of entry, which, named in order, beginning with the farthest north, are Robertsport, Monrovia, Buchanan, Greenville and Harper. These are the correct names of the places, though the names of the counties in which they are situated are sometimes given rather than the ports.

The population of Liberia is made up of Americo-Liberians and civilized and uncivilized natives. The entire civilized population is put down at 25,000, more or less, and the uncivilized at about 1,500,000.

The uncivilized natives are to an extent wild. They live back in the woods in their huts, which make up the towns or half-towns. The towns sometimes contain scores of these huts and thousands of people. The half-towns, as the name indicates, are much smaller. Since they are not civilized, it may be all right to say they are savage, though as a rule when they have no grievance against you and are not at war with some other tribe they are not likely to harm you. To the contrary, they are quite hospitable to the stranger, but I think always watchful till they learn to trust you. Those to whom I refer as civilized have either been reared as servants in some Americo-Liberian home or have been Christianized and trained in some mission home or school. This class make for the most part good, useful citizens, and many of

them are among the leading mechanics and artisans, not alone in Liberia, but along the entire West Coast. The Kru people, who are the seafaring natives, with a few other tribes, live along the coast, and as the result of their contact with civilization, either on shore or on the steamers, wear more clothing than do those who live back in the country. In this particular, and one or two others, their contact with civilization is helpful to them, but there are other respects in which it is injurious.

Besides our own Church Missionary Society, there is the Episcopal Church, the Lutherans, and here and there may be found an independent mission conducted by some individual who is supported by contributions from America. The African Methodist Episcopal Church has a number of societies in the Republic, but as far as I know they are confined to the Americo-Liberian people.

The Republic maintains a chartered institution known as Liberia College, and in addition has a system of public schools which is especially helpful to the Americo-Liberians and the native children who live in their homes.

The Episcopalians have an institution of higher grade, known as Cuttington Institute, an orphanage and a number of primary schools besides.

Our own missionary society has a chartered institution known as the College of West Africa, an academy, and a number of primary schools, which are scattered about in different parts of the Republic. There is no doubt that much good is being done by these influences, not only for the elevation of the uncivilized natives, but for the perpetuation of the life of the government.

There is still some difficulty in getting possession of the native boys and girls, but not nearly as much as there once was. In fact, it is very easy to secure the boys, but not so the girls. The latter are in demand for wives, and have a market value no matter how young. Hence you can understand that parents are not nearly as ready to give you a girl as a boy. Still we find them here and there who will let the missions have their girls to teach them "book palaver" and "God way." In addition, we have some who attend school during the day and return to their homes in the heathen towns at night. But the best results are never obtained in this way. It is to the advantage of the child and the

mission as well to have him in the mission home. In the towns they are constantly witnesses of those heathen rites and orgies which seem to neutralize everything the missionaries are able to do for them.

We support them through the special gifts of persons here at home who are interested in the salvation of Africa. Our workers calculate that $25 will feed and clothe a native child right through the year. This, of course, means the simplest fare and the plainest clothing possible—blue denim for the boys and gingham for the girls. Many persons pay the $25 and have us secure a boy or girl, as they may prefer, and name him or her for them, or some member of the family. Then, too, Sunday Schools, Epworth League Chapters, churches and other organizations take scholarships; sometimes a single class in a Sunday School will do so, and at other times a party of young ladies or young men organize just for the purpose, and support a child.

I need such scholarships now and will be extremely grateful to any who will help. A hundred scholarships of the kind would mean much to our work, both as to its enlargement and development. I should be glad to hear from any who may desire to assist us. My address is Nashville, Tenn.

I am surprised and delighted at the district conferences I have attended. The interest of the people in the salvation of Africa is constantly increasing. I wish I had the time and strength to attend all the conferences this summer and fall. The brethren urge me to come, and I purpose to visit a few more, if possible, but I have a number of engagements at the North that I must leave for at once.—*Southwestern Christian Advocate.*

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN LIBERIA.

HON. ERNEST LYON, AMERICAN CONSUL-GENERAL, MONROVIA, LIBERIA.

The inspiration which gave birth in 1819 to the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, came one day in the year 1816 under the preaching of Marcus Lindsay in Marietta, Ohio, when a drunken colored man named

John Stewart strayed accidentally into the service. Through the influence of the preaching he was convicted and converted, and soon thereafter by a strange providence became the first Methodist Episcopal missionary to the aborigines of the Western world.

Simultaneous with this missionary movement in the same year, 1816, at Washington, forces influenced by the moral upheaval against the growth of human slavery and the desire to found an asylum for freed colored persons in the United States gave birth to the American Colonization Society—an institution which is responsible for what is now the Republic of Liberia. It seems significant that these two movements, one of a secular and the other of a religious character, should have had their inspiration in the conduct and condition of the Negro.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was officially organized in Liberia about 1832, nearly seventy-four years ago, when Melville B. Cox, a member of the Virginia Conference, was appointed by Bishop Hedding as the first missionary to Liberia. It is nevertheless asserted that the church had been already organized on board the "Elizabeth," the first ship sent out by the American Colonization Society, ten days after her departure from New York, in 1820, by Daniel Coker, a Methodist emigrant bound for the West Coast of Africa. After his arrival in Liberia he continued to administer to the society until the coming of Cox, who gave to the work the sanction of official authority. Coker is acknowledged the father and founder of Liberian Methodism.

The mission in Liberia was the first foreign missionary enterprise undertaken by the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, and is therefore the church's eldest foreign missionary offspring.

Cox was in feeble health when he left for Africa. It was strange that he should have selected it as the scene of his missionary labors, when he did not himself expect to live any length of time in so inhospitable a climate as obtained in Liberia at that time. His ambition, however, was to reach Africa in order that he might, as he expressed it himself, establish by his death a bond between Africa and his church at home that should not be broken until Africa was redeemed. He lived long enough to accomplish the purpose of organization and to give general inspiration to the

work, and died four months after his arrival. His remains, with other faithful missionaries, now lie buried in the cemetery at Monrovia. His grave is marked by a modest stone, upon which is inscribed this significant epitaph suggested by himself: "Let a thousand fall before Africa is given up."

The wish of this inspired man has been fulfilled in a most singular manner. Some of the ablest, best and most consecrated men of both races in Methodism have labored in answer to his prayer as missionaries in this field. Many of them fell victims to the rigor of the African climate, while others returned enfeebled in health and unfitted for further service. Foremost among these early pioneers may be mentioned John Seys, Ann Wilkins, Sophronia Farrington, Dr. Goheen, and Burns and Roberts, descendants of the emigrants who became bishops. Later came Bishop William Taylor, regarded as the Paul of modern times, whose memory still lingers in the native hamlets of the Republic. His efforts were ably supplemented by Bishop Joseph C. Hartzell, who in the zeal and abundance of his labors proved himself not only a worthy successor to them all, but a master in details and in organization. Now comes as resident bishop the present incumbent, the Rev. Isaiah B. Scott, D. D., a man born in due time, whose remarkable gifts, as the result of one year's work has already shown, unquestionably fit him in the highest degree for this post of more than ordinary importance to the church and significance to the Negro race he represents.

The work has steadily grown from those days to these. It has had, of course, like all other institutions, its ebb and flow. What was once the mission conference with half a dozen stations and a few communicants and supervised by a local superintendent is now an annual conference with two regularly elected bishops with co-ordinate official supervision. Thousands of people, both of the Americo-Liberian and of the indigenous population, have been brought under its influence. The very life of the Republic has been at times in the keeping of this denomination. Several of its Presidents and very many of its prominent officials have been members of this communion. Under the present administration the Vice-President, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of the Interior, the Postmaster General, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Governor of the county of

Montserrado, the superintendent of the Territory of Grand Cape Mount, the collector of customs of the chief center in the Republic, the mayor of the city of Monrovia, together with many of the legislators and prominent military officials, are either ministers or laymen in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The annual conference of this church, to which your attention is directed, has just been held in Edina, Grand Bassa county. The occasion brought together a number of talented and influential men and women, both clerical and lay. The body was composed of 104 ministers, teachers and lay workers, representing 3,528 full members, 553 probationers, 2,752 Sunday School scholars and 630 officers and teachers, together with churches and parsonages valued at $73,673. The report of the ministers showed that there were added to the church by conversion during the year 99 full members and 247 probationers. There were also 390 children and adults baptized; $6,171 had been raised for building and improving church property; $2,130 had been paid over for the support of pastors and presiding elders. Ten new churches and parsonages were in course of erection; $327 had been collected during the year for the cause of mission, education, and the other benevolences of the church. This latter item showed an increase over the previous year of $124. The spiritual department also reported several conversions among the aboriginal population during the year. The revival idea was made prominent during the conference session, which clearly indicated a larger increase for the next year. Numerically the Methodists are said to be the strongest in the Republic.

The educational work of the conference is represented by 30 schools, with 43 professors and teachers and an enrollment of 1,238 pupils. Of these one is of college grade, one of preparatory grade, and three are industrial schools, where some of the trades and agriculture are taught. I was present at the graduation of the first class from the industrial school of the St. Paul River. It was composed of five young men who received diplomas as skilled workmen. The Garraway mission in Maryland county and the Industrial mission in Sinoe county are superintended by white missionaries and operate exclusively among the natives. The former heads of the Barraka and Wissika missions until recently were also white. This latter school is located in the Cavalla

district in the midst of a dense pagan population, 100 miles from the sea coast. The enrollment of native students of the four schools is 264.

The most important enrollment center, however, is the College of West Africa, located at Monrovia. It has always occupied a unique place in the history and development of the Republic. Its record is unsurpassed for actual accomplishment in the preparation of men and women for service in the state. In connection with the college is a mission press which does admirable work. A newspaper organ, *Liberia and West Africa,* is published on the ground and keeps the outside world informed as to the doings of the workmen. General Ferdinand C. Latrobe, many times mayor of Baltimore, Md., and the son of the late John H. Latrobe, Esq., one of the founders of the American Colonization Society, wrote me in receipt of a copy of *Liberia and West Africa,* paying the following tribute, which is weighty coming from one of such wide experience: "There is great hope for any country that can produce a paper of the character and workmanship of the one you sent me. The friends here would hardly believe that it was printed in Liberia."

Rev. Alexander P. Camphor, D. D., as president of the college is the successor of an illustrious band of self-sacrificing men. With him is an able corps of teachers. He is himself well prepared for the work, having had an honorable record in the United States as a minister and educator.

The work of the church is divided between the Americo-Liberian and the native population. The former has had its attention from the start with unabated interest. It was always the hope that the latter would be reached, educated, and evangelized. It is fair to say that with the limited resources at their command they have accomplished as much as might be expected; but the extensive hinterlands of the Republic, except in spots, remain unreached, uninfluenced and unevangelized. This will be clearly seen by a reference to the minutes for the last year. There are under the supervision of the conference 48 churches and 14 preaching stations. Thirty-five of these are directly among the native tribes distributed as follows: 16 on the sea coast, 8 on the banks of the rivers not far from the sea coast, and 3 some distance in the interior. The missionaries who come from

the United States are both white and colored. The work of the former is confined strictly to the natives, while that of the latter, with but one exception at present, is divided among the Americo-Liberians and the native population in those centers. The same is true of the educational institutions.

With the exception referred to above they are located on the sea coast and in the heart of the Americo-Liberian population. If the heathen is to be reached the church must go after him and settle where he is. The native on the sea coast is not the best subject for missionary enterprise. A large institution located in the interior, in the heart of the heathen population, would do much to strengthen the work of the church. The church has everything to gain and nothing to lose by a change of policy in this direction. For instance, it would cost exceedingly less to maintain schools and churches in the interior than it does to maintain them on the sea coast among the civilized population, where everything is high and has to be bought, from a stick of wood to a pinch of salt. I did not find a single Methodist church five miles from the civilized centers in those sections through which I passed in the interior during my journeys through the territory of Grand Cape Mount and the counties of Grand Bassa and Montserrado. All through the Gorgee and Bopora sections included in my travel, a circuit of about 300 miles, there was neither church nor school, denominational or secular, although the heathen are calling for both. That the thoughtful men of the conference have begun to realize this is verified by the action of that body at the session to which I referred in unanimously adopting a resolution offered by the president of the College of West Africa advocating a change of location for that institution from the sea coast to the interior—directly among the pagans, for whose special benefit they have come.

Bishop Scott is pressing the principle of self-support with some results already, as have been indicated in the financial report submitted above. This is an element in the work among the Americo-Liberians which cannot be too strongly emphasized. Absolute dependence upon foreign support has paralyzed independent efforts. The Americo-Liberians, however, cannot at present do without some help, but they ought to be encouraged to do more for themselves and their heathen brethren in the

nature of self-help and home missionary work. The work is not without elements of self-sacrifice on the part of the Liberians themselves. This is manifest in the sacrifices which they make to erect without any outside help the places of worship as well as the small salaries for which they consent to preach and teach. There are many who would gladly welcome the self-supporting basis, but the poverty of the masses arising from the lack of industrial enterprises for the employment of labor will enter largely into the solution of the problem, and will postpone for some time yet self-support on any decent scale.

At one time between the American Colonization Society, the Methodists, the Presbyterians, the Episcopalians, and the Baptists more than a quarter of a million of dollars came annually into the Republic for the support of churches, schools, and other institutions of the society. The Methodists themselves contributed to this amount $40,000 annually. Later the amount fell down to $2,500 and now up again to $12,500. The Episcopalians and the Methodists of the United States still retain the oversight of the Liberian churches through their resident bishops. The former contributes $47,000 annually to the support of the clergy and the missionary worker in educational institutes, etc. Many of their clergy receive as high as $800 annually for their support. This liberal provision of the Episcopalians compels them to give their entire time to the administration of the altar.

At present both the Presbyterians and the Baptists in Liberia receive no support from the denominations in the United States. While the former is still connected with the mother church, the latter has become an independent institution with no connection whatever. But it must be stated fairly that these bodies are handicapped by the total withdrawal of financial help. No forward movements among the aboriginal population are in progress for lack of means, and they are barely holding on to what has been accomplished in the years past. In conversation with the pastor of the leading Baptist Church at Monrovia he expressed himself as follows:

"I am opposed to the spending of one dollar of foreign contribution for church work among the Americo-Liberians. They ought to support their own churches. But I pray God for a re-

newal of the liberality of Christians abroad for the spread of the gospel among our native population. The work among them is suffering from the withdrawal of foreign help."

This opinion was indorsed by the moderator of the Presbyterian Synod in the Republic.

The reduction in the appropriation of the Methodists from $40,000 to $12,500 so reduces the allowance to the ministers as to render entire confinement to the work of the pastorate difficult. In examining the minutes of the conference it will be seen that the highest salary paid by any self-supporting church in the denomination is $450. A majority of the pastors and workers receive very small salaries, some as low as $14 for the whole year's work. Such amounts are totally inadequate for the support of a man with a family when the high cost of living in Liberia is taken into consideration. The result is that the majority of the pastors are forced to seek other employments in order to supplement the amounts apportioned by the churches. It is common, therefore, to find many pastors and even presiding elders who divide their time between the church, the state and secular pursuits. This practice is known to militate against the best interest of the work in general. The conference is powerless, it seems, to restrict the pastors to the work of the pulpit in the face of the general complaint that the salaries are insufficient to meet the needs of the pastor and his family.

Bishop Scott's appeal for aid for advancement in native work and for the enlargement of industrial plants ought to be heeded. His intention to recapture Bopora, a promising center, ought to receive aid and encouragement from the home church. This cause will suffer from retrenchment. If retrenchment is to come it ought to fall upon the civilized population who are better able to stand it. The urgent need is industrial schools. One great school of this character at present would be worth more than several colleges. The management would find among the aborigines a basis upon which to start. He is already acquainted with cloth making and pottery, carving, blacksmithing, tannery, etc. He simply lacks design, intelligent direction and a knowledge of modern methods. He needs teachers rather than preachers in the popular sense. The church should send trained and educated men who are apt enough to master the language so as

to render the interpreter unnecessary. No missionary should come who is unwilling to do this. The idea that anything will do for Africa will prove, if not already, an expensive experiment. If the missionaries have a knowledge of medicine, all the better. If you can heal the body of a native man suffering from an African ulcer you are very apt to get his heart. He believes in the medicine man. There is a great field here for missionary work.

RECAPITULATION.

Number of churches	48
Number of preaching places	14
Number of schools	30
Number of professors and teachers	43
Number of parsonages	5
Number of enrollment	1,238

These are distributed as follows:

Americo-Liberians	579
Native	659
Full members	3,528
Probationers	553
Number of Sunday School scholars	2,752
Number of officers and teachers	630
Value of church property and parsonages	$73,673
Estimated native population	1,520,000
Estimated Americo-Liberian population	20,000

Tribal religion divided between Feticism, Paganism and Mohammedanism.

Protestant denominations operating among them, Methodist, Episcopalians, Protestant Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Baptists, African Methodists, Zion Methodists, Lutherans, and the Church of Christ.

Number of missionaries from the United States employed by the Missionary Society of the M. E. Church, 20.

These are divided as follows: 9 males, 11 females, 6 white and 14 colored, with two bishops, one white and one colored.

Annual appropriation for the work from the missionary society in New York of the M. E. church, $12,500.—*Southwestern Christian Advocate.*

FAVORABLE VIEW OF LIBERIAN REPUBLIC.

The following article is introduced by this letter from Mr. W. Lloyd Garrison:

"To the Editor of *The New York Age:*

"Not long ago you reproduced in your paper a magazine article reflecting severely upon the colored people of Liberia, if I remember rightly. I therefore enclose an article clipped from *The Muhammadan,* of Madras, India, which copies the account of Mrs. French Sheldon. I thought perhaps you might like to use it in rebuttal.

"Cordially yours,

"WM. LLOYD GARRISON.

"Boston, September 18, 1906."

Mrs. French Sheldon, the well-known explorer, author, playwright, doctor, scientist, lecturer, and philosopher, has just returned from a six weeks' stay in the heart of Liberia, the Negro Republic on the West Coast of Africa. She has come home delighted with the country and the people, and in an interview with a representative of *The Tribune* effectually disposed of many popular conceptions of Liberia and the Liberians which have been current in Europe for the last twenty years.

There is a flavor of romance, not unmixed with pathos, in the story of this Republic of Negroes, self-governed and self-educated, which has met and is meeting many trials and vicissitudes, but contrives in spite of all to keep its independence, and in many ways to make strides in civilization worthy of the Japanese. It was started in 1822 by a number of American philanthropists as a sort of colonial experiment for freed Negroes who wished to enjoy political and social privileges then denied them in the United States. The sum of about three million dollars was put into the scheme, and the central aim was that it should be a Negro Republic, governed entirely by Negroes on up-to-date American lines. Some 13,000 colored immigrants in all were brought from America. Many trials and troubles inseparable from such an attempt were bravely overcome, but in 1847 the baby State was cut adrift with all its imperfections. It was declared independent, and from that date to this it has fought on

with a courage that cannot fail to win admiration. The magnitude of the task with which the Negro statesmen have had to grapple can be to some extent gauged from the size of the country. It has a coast line of about 300 miles, controls a territory of 40,000 square miles, and has a population of civilized Negroes of from 40,000 to 60,000, and a native and warlike population which is estimated at 2,000,000.

Little has been heard since the early days of the scheme about the band of emancipated slaves who went forth to cut a country out of the virgin forests of West Africa. Occasionally the man in the street is reminded by a brief newspaper paragraph that there is such a place as Liberia, but he knows little enough of its inner life. Those who have met the people when trading for coffee, rubber, piassava (a fiber used for broom-making), palm oil, and kernels have been wont to speak of their progress as lamentably slow and their trade as tending toward stagnation.

Exceptional opportunities of knowing the people as they actually are have been enjoyed by Mrs. French Sheldon, and she does not agree with this. "As a Republic," she said, "they are a mere fifty-eight years old, and in that short existence they have done wonders, which none would credit without seeing. You must remember that these people, who are all Negroes, are not like the Japanese, who have grown from one thing to another; they started high up the social and economic scale all of a sudden. They speak in English (or American), keep their accounts in dollars and cents, and have to keep up all the complicated government machinery, which has been the result of centuries of civilization and progress.

"They have a President and Vice-President, who are elected every two years by the most modern system of universal suffrage, secret ballot, and all. They have a Cabinet, a Senate, and a House of Representatives; chief justices and local magistrates; supreme courts, courts of common pleas, and quarterly courts. Every town and village has its school, and in Monrovia, the capital, there is the West African College, in praise of which I could not say enough.

"The President, Mr. Arthur Barclay, with whom I stayed, is a brilliant example of what the Liberians can do in the way of education. He is a man of natural brain power, an astute states-

man, and splendidly educated. He is a man any President of any Republic would honor. He is a great reader, knows the world's affairs as well as we do here, and has every book of moment as soon as it is possible to get it. When I arrived I found he had read many of the most recent productions, including Mr. Bernard Shaw's latest. One incident will suffice to show how much he is in touch with men and things. When I entered this house I was almost dumbfounded with astonishment to see over the door this motto: 'Welcome to the foster-mother of Salambo.' My translation of Salambo is known not only by the President, but by many others, who subsequently expressed to me their deep gratitude for turning the book into a language they could understand. Barclay himself is a man of intellect and learning, before whom I often felt a child. He is the star of the Republic, but there are many more almost his equal. All of them received the whole of their education in their own country. Barclay was three when he left America.

"During my stay I was invited to several State balls, which were dignified functions, conducted quite on modern lines. I also attended banquets, served in courses. The menu was a purely Liberian one, consisting mostly of eggs and different kinds of fruit. The people are happy, contented, and industrious, in spite of all that has been said of the inherent laziness of the Negro. Every man has his own house, which he builds himself. No man would think of taking a wife until he could build a house. Let it not be imagined that I am speaking of mud huts or timber structures. Not at all. The houses are brick built, with fine verandas, windows, bed-rooms, etc., etc. I saw finer brick houses in Liberia than in any other place I have visited in Africa with the exception of the Transvaal.

"What they are backward in is the most up-to-date methods of making the most of their productions, in order that they may compete with reasonable expectation of profit in the open markets of the world. They want money also to buy certain machinery, by which they will be able to improve the value of their exports. They want more commercial knowledge and a more satisfactory regulation of their imports and exports. But they are quick enough to learn both from teaching and experience. The President is about to appoint two customs officials, Europeans or

Americans, in order thoroughly to organize the customs departments. One will be paid £1,000 a year and the other £500. The latter is more than the President's own salary, but although money is very scarce, the government is willing enough to spend it in the interest of efficiency.

"Because of my interest in the agricultural and industrial development of Africa, which is a fad of mine, I have taken 1,000 acres of Liberian country at Montserrado, which I am going to develop on the latest and most scientific agricultural and industrial lines. This I hope to make a center where Liberians can come and learn things which it will be good for them to know. I shall have nothing but the latest and most expert ideas in the cultivation of coffee, rubber, cotton, sugar, tobacco, and all the things indigenous to Africa, and will experiment with every exotic thing that can be made to grow in Africa.

"Finally, I must say that the thing which struck me most about them was a deep and fervid patriotism. They have not been long in their country, but they are as ardent patriots as the Japanese with their centuries of history. Every scheme that is proposed to them by European and other powers is always met with the question: 'Will it injure the independence of Liberia or the liberty of its people?' If it does it is rejected. I prophesy a great future for the Liberians. They are a sober and earnest people, and, in my opinion, will go far."—*New York Age.*

GOVERNOR WILLIAM MacGREGOR'S REPORT ON COTTON.

Sir William MacGregor, Governor of Lagos, has forwarded to the Colonial Secretary a memorandum on the subject of cotton-growing in West Africa. During his recent stay in Egypt, Sir William endeavored to learn as much as possible about the cultivation of cotton in that country, and he now gives the results as they affect the subject of his communication:

"It is very unfortunate that meteorological statistics are not yet available for the interior of the Lagos territory. It is hoped that this *desideratum* may be met before long, as the necessary instruments were provided some time ago.

"It may for general purposes be assumed from the latitude of the Lagos territory that the temperature is suitable. The average minimum is about 76° F., the average maximum about 89° F.

"The rainfall at Lagos itself is on the average about 72 inches a year. The rains set in with June, and last off and on for nearly six months. Little rain falls during the other half of the year.

"The climate of Egypt is meteorologically widely different from that of America or of Lagos, yet important indications can be obtained from it.

"The rainfall near Cairo is about one inch a year; at Alexandra eight and a quarter inches. Hence irrigation is an absolute necessity. In this connection it may be stated that the Nile begins to rise with June, is highest at the end of September, and is low in February.

"Near Cairo the wind is almost constant from the north-northwest. The ridges for planting cotton are accordingly made to run from east to west, so that the seedlings may find shelter on the southern side of the ridge. If circumstances permit, the ridges should run from north to south, to let the sun's rays enter between the rows to the lower part of the plants.

"Every tenth person in Egypt is a landholder. The cotton crop covers some 900,000 acres, and is worth £13,000,000 a year. The proprietor grows cotton by paying laborers in money, about five pence a day: or he pays partly or wholly by granting the use of so much land to the laborer.

"The Egyptian soil is alluvial loam, that without sand or clay being preferred. There is not at Lagos a large area of this kind of land; but the loose, generally light, soil of the country seems to be very fairly suitable to cotton. Alluvial deposits are practically confined to the banks of the rivers. It would appear that cotton soon exhausts the soil, so that even in Egypt it becomes necessary to manure the land.

"Different kinds of manure are in use. Farm yard manure is generally employed by the fallaheen, and is applied at the rate of about eight tons to an acre. That would hardly be obtainable at Lagos. It is a common procedure to sow clover in the cotton field in October, or as soon as the cotton is picked. This could be reaped or would be ploughed into the ground in February.

When ploughed in, this clover crop supplies sufficient nitrogen to the soil for the cotton plant. It is doubtful that this forage crop would grow in Lagos during the dry season: and it is therefore to be feared that this method of manuring would be inapplicable except where the land could be irrigated. Phosphates and superphosphates are also used, but Professor Fletcher prefers 'basic slag.' A good mixture is found by three of superphosphate to one of nitrate of soda. 'Poudrette,' a sewage product, has also been tried successfully. It is said that potash gives good results in some soils in Egypt. It must not be hastily assumed that in this article there would be at hand at Lagos a cheap and ready manure in the so-called 'potash' imported so freely from Northern Nigeria; that mineral was found on analysis in Lagos to consist entirely of soda compounds. But even as compounds of soda it might be useful in certain soils. This would be determined by experiment. The fellaheen also make use of the debris and detritus of ancient or abandoned town or village sites as top-dressing or manure for the cotton fields. This is not obtainable at Lagos.

"In the light soils of Lagos the probability is that a rotation of crops would be absolutely necessary. The peanut, already grown there, would probably be very useful as a rotation crop with cotton on account of its production of nitrogen. It will, however, be imperative to carry out experiments on the model farm at Oloke-Meji to find out what system of rotation will be most suitable. In Egypt cotton is never grown in rotation with either maize or sugar-cane. Wheat is, however, so grown. It is sown from the middle to the end of October, and is reaped in the end of May. This crop probably could not be grown in the Lagos territory. It gives in Egypt an average of nineteen bushels, but in very good land as much as twenty-seven bushels to the acre.

"I have not been able to obtain any precise information as to when cotton was first cultivated in Egypt. It is doubtless indigenous to Africa from time immemorial. It may even be indigenous in some variety or another to the whole of the tropical zones. It grows all over the hinterland of Lagos. It is present in the interior of British New Guinea, where it is not used. It is all over the Pacific. I understand that mummies of Egypt are swathed in linen. The cotton plant is certainly native to Lagos,

and cotton cloth has been always woven there; and it is still an important industry in several towns.

"At present there are eight varieties of cotton under cultivation in Egypt. Only three of these are grown in Lower Egypt—the Mit-Affifi, the Abassi, and the Yanovitch. It appears that the first was obtained by selection from specimens, about 1883. The Abassi was developed in the same way about 1897. It is not yet known whether these two hybridized by the action of insects; they can be hybridized by hand. These three kinds are cultivated in the same way, but the Abassi requires to be irrigated most frequently. The Mit-Affifi is the hardier and better withstands drought. About 75 per cent. of the cotton produced in Egypt is Mit-Affifi, probably because it yields the heaviest crops. Cotton is sold by the kantar of 315 pounds. The kantar of unginned Yanovitch may be worth about £3 10s.; the same quantity of Mit-Affifi or Abassi about £3—that is about 2.6d. and 2.28d. a pound respectively. Apparently the Mit-Affifi would be the variety to chiefly patronize at Lagos. The Achmouny variety is grown in Upper Egypt. The remaining four kinds are rarely, if ever, cultivated now.

"The land is ploughed in February, after the crop of clover or of wheat. The clover may have been reaped once or twice, but the last crop will be ploughed down, as mentioned above. The native plough is very primitive. It has no board, and does not turn over the soil; it is drawn by two oxen. One plough will do half an acre a day. The land is ploughed some four or five times, in different directions, to a depth of about six to seven inches. After the second ploughing the land is harrowed.

"The harrow is a log of wood 12 or 15 feet long and 3 or 4 inches in diameter. A man usually stands on it as it is drawn over the ground. Its action is, therefore, more that of a roller than of a harrow.

"When the land has in this way been sufficiently prepared the soil is formed into furrows by a doubled-boarded English plough, or by a native plough to which a wooden board is attached in front. The ridges, running from east to west, are about 3 feet apart, the distance depending to some extent on the quality of the land, and about 9 or 10 inches high.

"It does not seem probable that this method of tilling the

ground will be adopted at Lagos. There the land is prepared for planting yams by turning it over with sharp stakes and by the use of the short handle hoe. Probably the same amount of preparation that is given to the soil before yams are planted would be quite sufficient for cotton. The objection to it, however, will be that it is too laborious and troublesome; the plough would, it is to be feared, be a hopeless innovation in the Lagos territory. In Egypt one sees how slowly the English displaces the native plough. It will be equally difficult for any other implement to displace the bush-made hoe in West Africa. Probably the agricultural is the most conservative element in all backward communities.

"The cotton seeds are put in early in March, after the ground has been properly prepared as described above. Two distinct methods of sowing are used, the wet and the dry.

"The wet method is best suited for heavy land. When ridging has been completed, water is run on to the land till it is well irrigated. After about a week, when the land has become sufficiently dry, the seeds are prepared by soaking in water for about twenty-four hours. A man then goes along the ridge with a 'dibble,' which makes one hole at a time, on the south—that is, the sheltered side of the ridge—about half way up. The holes are from 12 to 16 inches apart, according to the nature of the soil, and about 3 inches deep. The man is followed by a child, who drops from seven to ten seeds into the hole as soon as it is made. The seeds are covered, by hand, by about 2 inches of loose soil. About a bushel of seed is required to one acre of land. From thirty-five to fifty days after the wet sowing the plants are thinned by hand—two only, or at most three, being left in each hole. This leaves from 22,000 to 23,000 plants to the acre. The first watering is given some three or four days later; the water being run on till it reaches half way up the ridges. It is let on every fifteen or twenty days afterward.

"In the dry method the seeds are sown by dibbling, as described above, as soon as the ridges are made. Water is at once run on to the land till it extends half way up the ridges. The water is let on afterward whenever it seems to be required.

"Cotton seed obtained from Egypt has been successfully grown in the Pacific without irrigation, wherever there is a

sufficient rainfall. The probability is that it could be grown similarly in Lagos, if it is planted at the right time. But no doubt a large quantity of land could be irrigated on the Ogun and Oshun rivers, for example, were cotton culture taken up earnestly in that territory.

"Large use is made of the hoe in this cultivation in Egypt. The hoe is used to finish off the tops of the ridges before sowing, and sometimes to make the seed holes. It is believed to pay to hoe cotton every seven days. It consists in destroying the weeds, and in raking the soil from the north side of one ridge to the south side of the next one. In this way the soil is heaped well up round the young plants, so that after about five hoeings the plants come to be on the middle of the ridges, after which the hoeing is continued without shifting the soil. Three to five men hoe one acre a day. Hoeing is discontinued only when it becomes difficult on account of the size of the plants.

"There are three or four pickings. It is done by hand, each pod being lifted off separately and carefully, so that no part of the bract is included with the pod, which would spoil the cotton. The picker wears a large shirt, tied firmly at the waist and open in front, to receive the pods as they are picked. When the shirt is full, the picker empties it into a sack, and then begins again. The pickers are boys, who are paid at the rate of a farthing for 2¾ pounds the first picking, twice as much for the second picking, and 2½ farthings for 2¾ pounds of the third picking.

"The first picking begins about the end of August or the beginning of September in the south of the delta, and some three weeks later in the north. The second takes place about a month after the first, and the third three weeks later.

"The average yield is about three kantars (945 pounds) to the acre, but eight to ten kantars (a ton or more) are not unusual. The number of pods on a bush may vary from half a dozen to three hundred or more.

"The sacks of cotton picked during the day are taken to the store at night to be weighed for the payment of the pickers. The cotton is spread out to prevent its fermenting. It appears that spontaneous combustion is far from being unknown in piles of raw cotton. As the cotton from the first picking is the best, the different pickings should be carefully kept apart.

"When the last crop is gathered, the bushes are generally pulled up and used as firewood. By cutting them off, however, about two feet from the ground, leaving the stumps and roots, a second small crop of inferior cotton may be obtained next year. When the bushes are pulled up, then clover, wheat, barley, or beans may be sown into the land. The cotton crop occupies the ground about eight or nine months.

"The fellaheen does not gin his cotton. He either sells as it is picked or he has it ginned by a company that takes the cotton seed as payment for ginning. The companies charge for ginning, if paid in money, 1s. 4½d. for each 315 pounds, or they may receive about one bushel of cotton seed, worth about 1s. 0½d. The seed is made into oil in Egypt. The large company establishments do all the pressing as well as ginning. Cotton could, if dry, be kept at least two weeks before ginning.

"Ginning is done by 'knife gins.' These are 40 inches wide and cost complete £22. They require from 3½ to 4 horse-power to drive them. They gin about 315 pounds of cotton an hour, which gives about 100 pounds of cotton fiber. It is tolerably clear that in the Lagos territory ginning would have to be done either by the Government or by companies as in Egypt.

"The Mit-Affifi cotton yields about from 1,250 pounds to 1,575 pounds to an acre of land. Out of each kantar of 315 pounds there will be about 200 pounds of seed, 100 pounds of cotton fiber, and 15 pounds loss. The average yield may therefore be put at about 1,412 pounds to the acre, or say 896 pounds of seed and 448 pounds of cotton fiber. The Abassi is worth per kantar about a dollar less than the Mit-Affifi.

"If the cotton is very dry after ginning, it is sprayed with water at 170 F. This operation is a delicate one, and has to be carried out with great care. The baling presses are either hydraulic or steam. A steam press of the Nasmyth and Wilson type, with steam pumps complete, costs £3,000; the hydraulic press, with pumps, driving by belt, costs £1,000. The average turn-out is about twenty bales of about one ton every hour. The cost of baling, with bags and bands, is 8.6d. a kantar of 315 pounds.

"It is not improbable that cotton grown in the Lagos territory may have enemies different from those that prey on it in Egypt. The principal of the Egyptian parasites may, however, be men-

tioned here were it only to sound a note of warning as to the precautions to be used in starting the new industry, so as to exclude from the beginning as many as possible of the cotton pests:

"1. In Egypt an aphis lives on the leaves of the cotton plant. On the excreta of this insect a small fungus grows, the dark mycelial threads of which damage the cotton. The fallaheen use wood ashes as a remedy against this.

"2. A cotton worm feeds on the leaves and young shoots. A moth deposits its eggs on the leaves, below the epidermis, and the larvae of this insect are the worms in question. It gives at least three broods yearly, the most destructive one when the plants are young. It appears at the end of May.

"3. A 'bole' worm attacks the fruit, feeding on the interior of the bole. As many as 25 per cent. of the boles are sometimes thus attacked. There is no known remedy.

"4. The so-called 'cat worm' attacks young plants.

"5. The mole crickets also eat the seedings.

"6. A certain bug sucks the juice of the seeds, and gives an evil odor to the cotton.

"7. Different fungi attack the seeds.

"There is no cotton 'borer.'

"To obviate the introduction of these and other parasites, all cotton seed introduced from abroad should be dipped into a 5 per cent. solution of sulphate of copper. The probability is that, once imported, these parasites are beyond control. It will be necessary to make a very careful study of the local enemies of cotton, to ascertain what they are, and whether long experience has led to the use of any specific remedies. Further, it will be desirable in this connection to grow on the Government model farm all the different varieties of indigenous cotton, which may better suit soil and climate than any new variety. At the same time it should be our earnest endeavor to raise new varieties by selection and crossing, as has been done in Egypt. Crossing the local with introduced varieties will be a very interesting study. I learn from Mr. J. A. Hutton, of Manchester, that it is held that Egyptian cotton seed has succeeded better on the West Coast than America. It may be added that I have failed to obtain 'sea island' cotton seed from Fiji, where it used to be grown so successfully. It seems that it is no longer cultivated there. Planters in Fiji are obtaining cotton seed from Egypt.

"If only reasonable care is exercised it should be possible to import clean seed. But it would be desirable that the Government should have power to cause all imported cotton seed to be freed from the germs of parasites as indicated above, or in some other suitable manner.

"That cotton can be grown to a very considerable extent in the Lagos territory there need be no doubt. It has always been grown there. But to produce it on a large scale for export is a different matter. It can be grown only by the natives of the country, on their own soil, and by their own hands, and, it may be added, on their own methods. But these latter will, perhaps, be improved, with the assistance of men like the Alake of Abeokuta and the Alafin of Oyo.

"Native lands cannot, and will not, be alienated to Europeans to grow cotton or anything else. This would be contrary to present native usage and custom. Land could probably be leased for a long term. The main hope of cotton, however, is that it be grown by the people of the country, on their own farms, under the direction of the chiefs. To assist and encourage these latter, cotton should now become the principal feature of the Government model farm. This is being formed on the Ogun River, on the Lagos-Ibadan Railway.

"From what precedes it is easy to see that a highly educated, specially trained man should be at the head of a department charged with the special care of agriculture and experimental farming; an officer that fairly understands physiological botany, agricultural chemistry, and botanical parasitology, while at the same time conversant with the planting of cotton generally. It is clear enough that the planting of cotton at Lagos should be pushed and encouraged along the line of railway, wherever suitable lands exist. Fortunately the route to be followed by the railway extension, by Iwo, Ede, Oshogbo, and Ikerun, will give great facilities for growing cotton. This railway will traverse a large and fertile district that could be irrigated by the Oshun River. It has been decided by the Secretary of State that this line shall be pushed on as speedily as funds will permit. This now becomes very desirable in the interests of cotton. On the whole, it would appear that the cotton industry may become an important one at Lagos."—*Sierra Leone Weekly News.*

IMMIGRATION.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, *June* 29, 1906.

The American Colonization Society, Washington, D. C.

GENTLEMEN: I enclose herewith, for your information, a copy of a dispatch from the Legation at Monrovia, communicating to the Department a joint resolution of the Liberian Legislature concerning immigration.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

ELIHU ROOT.

THE AMERICAN LEGATION,
MONROVIA, LIBERIA, *May* 24, 1906.

The HON. ELIHU ROOT,
Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of the joint resolution touching the subject of immigration, enacted by the Liberian Legislature at its recent session. This information is of vital importance to a class of American citizens in certain sections of the United States where the question of immigration to Liberia is being agitated. We are always receiving letters from individuals as well as organizations asking for information. Many go as far as to ask the American Minister either to arrange or to assist in their transportation from the United States to Liberia, and seem quite annoyed when they are informed that this cannot be done. Others have the idea that the American Legation was established to aid in the deportation of colored people from the United States to Liberia. Inability to co-operate in this direction begets the opposition of its promoters.

JOINT RESOLUTION REGULATING IMMIGRANTS' EXPENSES.

"It is resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature assembled:

"SECTION 1. That from and immediately after the passage of this joint resolution any immigrant or immigrants coming into the Republic of Liberia must first take oath of allegiance to the Republic and abjuration of the sovereign or state whence he comes, after which he may receive aid from the Government as such. The immigrant agent or agents shall keep a true and cor-

rect account of all expenses incurred for the benefit of said immigrant or immigrants. He shall make a quarterly report in duplicate of all money or moneys, goods, wares, and merchandise received for and on account of said immigrant or immigrants, stating specifically what he received and paid out. The original report shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Treasury, and the duplicate to the superintendent of the county, territory, or district where said immigrant or immigrants reside, which report shall be entered in a book provided for that purpose.

"SEC. 2. It is further resolved that any immigrant or immigrants remaining in the Republic of Liberia for a period of five years from the time of his, her, or their arrival into said Republic, the benefit received from the Government by said immigrant or immigrants shall be gratis; but should any of them declare their intention to permanently leave the Republic before the expiration of five years after arriving into said Republic, the value of the benefits received from the Government by said immigrant or immigrants shall be estimated and considered a debt due the Government by said immigrant or immigrants, which shall be recoverable before any tribunal having competent jurisdiction.

"Any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

"Approved January 25, 1906."

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

ERNEST LYON,
Minister Resident.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA BY "THE MARYLAND ACADEMY OF PHILOSOPHY."

His Excellency ARTHUR BARCLAY,
Executive Mansion, Monrovia:

Your humble, most loyal memorialists, "The Maryland Academy of Philosophy"—an institution whose objects and aim, and whose humble labors in the past, we believe to be well known to Your Excellency in keeping with one of its most cherished objects, that of laying before the authorities of State its views on questions affecting the welfare of the country at large, and Maryland in particular—acting under the great guarantee of the Constitution, after mature discussion and deliberation on the

points hereinafter set forth, beg most respectfully to submit the following as the Academy's views for Your Excellency's high consideration.

Twice during the administration of ex-President Gibson, and once during your own encumbency, the Academy has presented its views in this form, and the generous spirit in which its views have uniformly been received, and the action already taken on some of the most pressing issues, as suggested by the Academy have served as a stimulus and an incentive to our further efforts to serve the public good.

Before passing to the subjects of this memorial, we wish to place upon record our sincere appreciation for your devotion to public duty and your faithfulness in the discharge of the great trust committed into your hands by the people of this Commonwealth. Few, if any, of the past rulers of this Republic have given greater evidence of their ability to lead this nation than what has been supplied by the brief years of your administration. It must be admitted, however, that a large proportion of the plans which have marked your administration have yet to be demonstrated to the general public as measures worthy of their support. All the same, we who have taken the time to study them out appreciate the patriotic spirit in which, to us, they have been conceived, and we hope that this opinion will widen as the years go by.

We shall now proceed to present the Academy's views upon certain *pressing questions* confronting us today as demanding the careful, dispassionate consideration of our public economists and statesmen.

Ranking first among these vexing problems is that of finance.

In our memorial addressed to you last December we discussed this question at great length, and were pleased to find from subsequent developments that Your Excellency's views on this point were in perfect accord with our own. The acceptance of these views by the general public, and the enactment of such laws as would effectually carry them out, are objects the realization of which the Academy still looks forward with increasing anxiety. But while deeply too sensible of the great demand there is for money for public use, and while positive that this demand cannot be met from the country's present revenue, which is derived

almost solely from customs, the Academy is nevertheless of opinion that the loan of small sums of money, ostensibly for the service of the *domestic debt,* without any regard to those national improvements calculated to enhance revenue and provide the means for the repayment of such loans, appear to us as being highly unbusiness-like and non-economic, and could, in the Academy's opinion, produce but one result, namely, the increase of the country's foreign debt for unremunerative purposes. The Academy inclines to the view that, unable to effect large loans for the development of national resources, the country could not do better than address itself assiduously to the creation of internal revenue and a careful, systematic collection of the import and export customs now badly collected.

Viewing the question from this standpoint, we find a wide, almost untouched, resource for the raising of an adequate revenue for national purposes. Estimating the male population of Liberia at, say, half a million, we find that a revenue amounting to over a million dollars might be readily raised by the imposition of the small tax of $2.50 per capita, upon all males from 16 upward. This tax should be made payable in gold, or its equivalent, and should be made to supersede to some extent the present tax on property. The collection of these taxes should be made a special object of government, and only men of integrity should be appointed to its collection, especially among the natives. Under proper business-like system, these taxes would be collected and would constitute a most available resource for public service. Then there is one question of the faithful, systematic collection of the customs. After considerable study and investigation of the present system, we are persuaded to believe that a large percentage of customs dues accruing on goods imported at the established ports is *uncollected.* If we add to this deficit the large amount of revenue lost to government from the illicit trading, now systematically carried on between here and Sinoe by steamers of the Elder Dempster Line, the figures would be startling. If this point could be well guarded and the Government secure her full revenue for the trade carried on in the country, it would be found that there exists no real need for *foreign loans.*

After a most careful study of this important and perplexing question of finance, the Academy has arrived at the conclusion

that the means by which Liberia might be made a financially strong country are indeed at hand, and awaits only the magic touch of her advanced statesmen and public economists to turn them to glorious account for national use. Liberia is *not* a bankrupt State; she has no huge armies and navies—the burden of western nations—to maintain. With proper development and utilization of the resources at hand, and the faithful keeping of the public purse, there would soon disappear, we opine, the present financial embarrassment, which now besets us, perhaps, more than ever. The Academy inclines to the opinion that to address itself to internal revenue and the reconstruction of the present system of customs collection the Government could hardly fail to achieve great success in the interest of all concerned.

The next point which the Academy would like to invite Your Excellency's attention to is the indiscriminate shipment of native labor beyond the boundries of the Republic.

In the memorial addressed to ex-President Gibson in 1902 the Academy, referring to this point, made the following observations:

"The question whether unskilled native labor should be permitted to continue to go out of the country unrestricted, or whether there should be inaugurated a policy, which while it did not positively prohibit, yet should render the recruiting of native labor difficult and expensive and thereby discourage it, has ranged our public economists and statesmen into two opposing camps. While duly valuing all that have been put forward in justification of the present system by its supporters, we are nevertheless strongly of the view that the system is impolitic and unremunerative. In a new country as Liberia, where there are no machinery or other improved contrivances, whereby hand labor may be supplemented and substituted by machanical agencies, where the cleaning of every pound of fibre, the cracking of every pound of nuts, the manufacture of every gallon of palm oil, the cultivation of every acre of soil is done by physical force in the most primitive form, you cannot draw indiscriminately upon the productive class—the class who manufacture the oil, crack the nuts, raise the grain and cultivate the coffee, cocoa, ginger, cassada and potato farms—unrestrictedly without seriously disorganizing and ultimately collapsing these useful and indispensable internal industries.

"A nation's stability and prosperity is judged in a large measure from its ability to feed and clothe itself at home. When the industries that support these are handicapped and crippled by whatever cause that cause is in conflict with the general prosperity and progress of the State, and should be eliminated as a policy incongruous to national stability and development. Viewing the questions from these standpoints and in the light of facts relative to what has befallen our agricultural and commercial activities, since the deportation of native labor has been accelerated by the enactment of the 'Kru-boy Concession's law,' and the general scarcity of foodstuff, which has raged not only among the coast towns but for more than a hundred miles in the hinterland, during the current year, we find ourselves unable to view the subject in any other light than disfavorable," etc., etc., etc.

The Academy were pleased to note that in the amendatory law enacted the same year several of its suggestions on this score were incorporated, but the Academy respectfully beg leave to point out that while from the letter and spirit of the amendatory act it will appear that it was the intention of the Government to afford better protection to native laborers going abroad for service, yet from the practice obtaining in this country this fact is overlooked. The provisions made in said act for the security and protection of native laborers are *not* enforced in this country, in consequence of which cases have recently arisen where "boys" taken from this port for a port and specific kind of service have been dumped ashore at a place they never shipped for and forced to perform service for which they never engaged. The Academy cannot disguise the fact that from its observations the chief object of those entrusted with the shipment of native labor seem to be *revenue* regardless of protection to the "boys." The Academy emphasizes the view expressed in its memorial in 1902, when it urged the discouraging of this wholesale indiscriminate deportation of the productive strength of the country, which, as it said then, is impolitic and unremunerative, and if continued on the scales it is now proceeding must ultimately bring about a collapse of agricultural, commercial and other useful pursuits of the country.

The next point to which the Academy desires to invite Your Excellency's consideration is immigration.

Upon this very important question much has been said pro et con. The Academy feels, however, that an administrator of Your Excellency's breadth of vision and keen poitical farsightedness will not fail to see that, while doing all in our power to incorporate the aborigines of the country and to make of them citizens, with the view to rearing a substantial nationality here in the fatherland, our labors in this direction must proceed with "snail's pace," unless we draw upon the large body of the race in foreign lands, whom Providence has fitted and prepared to assist us in this great work of building and maintaining a strong Negro Republic in Western Africa. Then again, when it is remembered that our territory is bounded on three sides by French and British possessions, and that to avoid entanglements it is necessary that order be maintained in our remote interior and the country taken under proper authority, it will be found that one of the most effectual means of effecting this end is the establishment of civilized settlements on the frontiers and in the remote interior with a desirable class. The Academy is of opinion that the question of populating the interior with immigrants from America and the West Indies is a desideratum worthy of the best efforts of the Government. The Academy if permitted would lay before Your Excellency the following as the lines upon which it opines this grand object might be carried out with appreciable success. And first we wish to express the view that the question of emigration is one that should be undertaken by Government and not left to private societies, as in the past. Presuming that this view is upheld by your Excellency, we venture the following suggestions:

(1) The execution of a contract between the Government and some steamship company—say Elder Dempster, whose ships also ply between America and Liverpool—for the thorough transit of immigrants from the Americas and West Indies to Liberia at reduced rates and at Government's expense.

(2) The establishment of Government agencies at ports of embarkation and the distribution of reliable information about the country. Immigrants desiring *free passage* (*i. e.*), at Government's expense, should be required to enter into contract that

they will remain in the country for 10 years after arrival, or leaving before the expiration of this time, that they will refund moneys expended on their passage.

Immigrants coming to the country under this arrangement would be for the express purpose of planting settlements in the remote interior and on the frontiers; and to build up these settlements into strong industrial centers the Government should establish in them such machinery as cotton gins, grain mills, etc.

Working on such lines the country could hardly fail to progress, and the paramount question of securing the hinterland from foreign aggression would at once be met. The Academy respectfully asks that Your Excellency will give this idea your calm, statesmanlike consideration; and it pledges itself to do all in its power to assist your Excellency in carrying out this scheme, which appeals to it with great force.

Your memorialists would respectfully invite your Excellency's attention to the question of the protection of our revenue, as our next point.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF LIBERIA.

Whereas, It is apparent to all thinking citizens of the country, that owing to the growth and advancement of the Republic on all lines affecting national life and perpetuity, at the present time, the Constitution, the organic law of the State—adopted by the fathers of the country (praise and gratitude to them for their self-sacrificing work in founding a home of freedom and equality for the despised and afflicted Negro, *requiescat in pace*), in the year A. D. 1847, with its more recent amendments, does not, now, suit the conditions of the country in many vital respects, but rather retards progress and healthy development of civilization and prosperity on modern lines; namely:

SECTION 1. The short tenure of the office of President, Vice-President, and members of both branches of the Legislature.

SEC. 2. The vague and uncertain provision for filling of vacancy of the office of Vice-President, which may be occasioned by death or otherwise.

SEC. 3. The non-provision for the ex-President, ex-Vice-President, and Cabinet Ministers, who are acquainted with the whole working machinery of the State, to be *ex-officio* members of the State.

SEC. 4. The insufficient qualification to make citizens eligible to the office of President, Vice-President, members of the Legislature, and judges of the courts.

SEC. 5. The salaries of the members of the Legislature should be permanently fixed as those of the President and judges of the courts.

SEC. 6. That article of the Constitution admitting only persons of color to be citizens of the Republic is wrong, and from its broad sense all peoples of color, without reference to Negro blood, are eligible to be citizens, viz: Japanese, Chinese, Filipinos, Indians (East and West), Moors, etc., which was never contemplated by the founder of the State, nor the framers of the Consitution: Therefore it is proposed,

SECTION 1. That the following amendments shall become parts of the National Constitution and be submitted to the people at the ensuing biennial election to be held on the first Tuesday in the month of May, A. D. 1907, throughout the several counties of the Republic for their consideration and approval or non-approval.

That Article 3d, Section 1st, be made to read,

1st. "The Supreme Executive power shall be vested in a President, who shall be elected by the people and shall hold his office for the term of four years."

2d. That Article 3d, Section 5th, to read "All ambassadors and other officers whose term of office may not be otherwise limited by law, shall hold their offices for four years or during the time of the President, but said officers may be removed from office at any time by the President for official misconduct."

3d. That Article 2d, Section 2d, after words "twenty-three years" to read, "The Representatives shall be elected quadrennially and shall serve four years from the time of their election."

4th. That Article 2d, Section 5th, after the words "twenty-five" to read "The Senator for each county who shall obtain the highest number of votes shall retain his seat eight years and one who was elected at the biennial election May, A. D. 1905, shall

retain his seat for six years and all who are afterwards elected eight years."

5th. That Article 3d, Section 7th, to read "No person shall be eligible to the office of President, who has not been a citizen of this Republic for at least twelve years previous to his election, and who shall not have attained the age of thirty-five years, and who is not possessed of unencumbered real estate of not less value than three thousand dollars."

6th. Article 2d, Section 2d, after words "one Representative," shall be added to read, "No citizen shall be a Representative who has not resided in the county in which he resides seven whole years immediately previous to his election, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of the county by which he was elected, and does not own real estate of no less value than six hundred dollars in the county which he represents."

7th. Article 2d, Section 5, after the words "incorporated into this Republic," to read, "No citizen shall be a Senator who shall not have resided nine whole years, immediately previous to his election, in the Republic of Liberia and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of the county which he represents and who does not own real estate of not less value than one thousand dollars in the county which he represents, and who shall not have attained the age of twenty-five years."

8th. Article 5th, Section 13, to read "None but persons of Negro decent shall be admitted to citizenship in this Republic."

9th. That when a vacancy occurs in the Vice-Presidency by death, resignation or otherwise, after the regular election of the President and Vice-President, the President shall immediately order a special election to fill said vacancy.

10th. That for the purpose of counsel and advice, all ex-Presidents and ex-Vice-Presidents shall be *ex officio* members of the Senate, and shall be entitled to discuss all matters before that body, but shall not be entitled to vote thereon.

The members of the Cabinet shall also be *ex officio* members of the Legislature, and shall be privileged to attend either branch for the purpose of discussing or advising upon any matter appertaining to their respective departments.

11th. That Section 5th, Article 5th, shall read: "All elections for President, Vice-President, Senators, and Representatives,

shall be held in the several counties of this Republic on the 2d Tuesday in October, in every four years," etc.

12th. That Section 3d, Article 4th, to read, "The Judges of the Supreme Court of the Republic shall be Chief Justice and two Associate Justices."

13th. That Section 4th, Article 4th, to read, "No person shall be appointed Judge of any of the Courts of Records of this Republic who has not resided in the Republic at least seven whole years, immediately previous to his appointment by the President.

Each Judge of the Supreme Court must at the time of his appointment by the President be possessed of unencumbered real estate of not less value than one thousand and five hundred dollars, and attained the age of thirty-five years; and every Judge of any of the subordinate courts of this Republic, must at the time of his appointment by the President be possessed of an unencumbered real estate of not less value than one thousand dollars, and attained the age of thirty.

Respectfully submitted by authority,

D. E. HOWARD,
Chairman T. W. P.

—*The Liberia Recorder.*

SIR HARRY JOHNSTON'S OBSERVATIONS IN LIBERIA.

This African explorer made his third visit to the coast of Liberia in 1904, his earlier sojourns in that country having been in 1882 and 1885. In a paper describing his visit he says that in many places the heavy forest which grew down to the sea in 1882 has been cleared away to make room for plantations or settlements. He estimates that of the 45,000 square miles believed to be approximately the area of Liberia, 25,000 square miles are dense forest; about 15,000 square miles are the interior grass or park lands, occupied chiefly by the Mandingo cattle-raisers; about 3,500 square miles are covered with the plantations, gardens, and settlements of the Americo-Liberians along the coast, and 2,000 square miles or so are clearings made by the indigenous natives along the coast.

Rubber, he believes, is destined to be the great export product of the future, though the development thus far is very small. The wealth of the forest in rubber-yielding trees, vines, and bushes is unequaled in any other part of Africa, excepting, perhaps, in one or two small areas of the Congo Basin. There appear to be at least twenty-two trees, plants, and vines producing salable rubber, including the widespread *Landolphia owariensis* (the largest rubber resource in the Congo State) and the enormous rubber tree, *Fantumia elastica,* once so abundant in the Lagos Colony. The park-like country of hills, mountains, and grass-lands beyond the forest region is inhabited by a more or less Mohammedanized people, who genuinely, but not fanatically, adhere to Mohammedan principles. The spread of Mohammedanism in Northern and Western Liberia has been of great benefit to the country, diminishing the traffic in alcohol and checking drunkenness.

Sir Harry estimates the number of Americo-Liberians at only about 12,000, while the indigenous natives are supposed to number about 2,000,000. The immigrants from America have not, as a rule, withstood the climate much better than Europeans, and few of them have reared large families of children; but the later generation, born in the country, is taking hold of the work of development more efficiently, and this is partly due to the increasing practice—which he believes is sensible—of intermarriage with women of the fine, vigorous, indigenous races.

Americo-Liberian settlements are scattered quite thickly along all the lower part of the St. Paul's River, and some of them have a distinctly prosperous and prepossessing appearance. The part of Monrovia inhabited by the Americo-Liberians is composed of broad, grass-grown streets and substantial, well-built, comely-looking houses, churches, offices, and public buildings. The smart appearance of the houses contrasts strikingly with the neglected appearance of the roads, which were never made, but are simply unleveled rock of more or less flat surface. He thinks the leading characteristics of the Americo-Liberians are their love of building and their remarkable politeness.

There is a good deal of civilization, with comfort and indications of progress, at the settlements that are grouped under the general name of Grand Basa, and also at the Sino towns, the most important of which is Greenville.

But perhaps, on the whole, the most go-ahead and energetic assemblage of Americo-Liberians is to be found at Harper (Cape Palmas). Here is a philosophical society which is doing a good work in collecting and printing statistics about Liberia. But Harper, unfortunately for Europeans, is a good deal more unhealthy than Monrovia.

Sir Harry says that the country is uncommonly free from the ordinary insect pests of Africa. There is apparently no Glossina fly to spread the tsetse disease. There are very few mosquitoes, and they seem to be entirely absent from much of the forest region. White ants are not very common or destructive in the centers of population.

There has been a marked advance in recent years in the good relations between the American settlers and their native subjects. The tribal chiefs assemble from time to time at Monrovia to confer with the authorities, and there is now no cause of dissension among them. One result of this mild rule of black by black is that the white man is everywhere received with great friendliness, because he is not associated in the minds of the natives with conquest or oppression.—*Bulletin of the American Geographical Society.*

THE PROBLEMS BEFORE LIBERIA.

We have before us in two pamphlets neatly printed at the Government Printing Office, Monrovia, the message of President Barclay, delivered to the Legislature of Liberia at the opening of its session, December 14, 1905, and the inaugural address delivered January 1, 1906, at the second inauguration of Mr. Barclay as President of the Republic.

In his message the President gives a most interesting and lucid statement of public affairs for the year 1905.

No student of these papers can fail to admire the ability as well as the pathos with which this Negro statesman depicts the struggles, the short-comings, and the successes of a Government composed entirely of Negroes, who have been striving for more than fifty years to establish and maintain a State in Africa on Anglo-Saxon lines, guided by the English Common Law and American statute laws, with its international compacts and ob-

ligations, and a religious system to which nine-tenths of the population are strangers.

In various portions of his striking state papers, the President refers to the incongruities involved in the unprecedented position of the young Republic.

Near the close of his message the President sums up the political situation in the following striking sentence, which covers an experience of fifty years:

"Absorbed in petty factional fights (for there is no room for real party government in this country at present), we have neglected and shirked the real problems of the country."

This is a most serious truth, for which blame must be attached not so much to the people as to the incompatible institutions under which, owing to their unhappy antecedents, they have been compelled to work.

It is difficult for the Liberian to understand that, when he has turned his face from America towards the fatherland, he has left behind him not only the fruits and flowers—the flora and fauna—of the house of bondage, which cannot be reproduced on African soil, but that he has also abandoned the institutions which have grown out of the psychological constitution of the *quondam* oppressors. An Anglo-African civilization on African soil might be a beautiful thing if such a thing were possible; but is it? It seems that the Negro is one of the races upon whom it is possible to impose without difficulty a false consciousness. It seems easy to make him think himself somebody else. So the Liberians have for fifty years been dividing themselves into two parties, Republicans and Whigs, in imitation of the Americans. This President Barclay shows is not only an impossibility in Liberia but has been the source of many serious dangers and inconveniences to the public weal. It has brought weakness upon the Government; and a weak government in a young State is a besetting peril. Being unable to command, it is reduced to contrive, to manage, to maneuver, to intrigue, to beg. This has been the history of the State during the last fifty years. Much valuable time has been wasted, many important national interests neglected or sacrificed in strifes, in frequent elections, in changes of administrative personnel, etc., etc.

We trust that President Barclay, who so clearly sees the situa-

tion, will be able, with the strong support behind him, as indicated in the last election, to establish a policy which shall be guided by a clear and abiding principle, and not by the varying necessities, caprices and expediencies of a shortsighted and uninstructed populace.

The new departure taken by the recent Legislature of admitting foreign capital and foreign aid into the administration of the Government ought to assist the President and his colleagues in raising the standard of honesty and conscientiousness in all departments of the political life of the State by securing greater stability of personnel and more extended continuity of policy in public affairs.

The President in his message (page 13) states that the shipment of boys from the territory of Grand Cape Mount has been prohibited at the request of the chiefs, owing to the sparseness of the population.

In the account of the Governor's tour given in this issue it will be noticed that his Excellency is taking rigid steps to suppress emigration from our Hinterland. The Liberian pro hibition will greatly aid this policy, as boys formerly crossed over the border to be shipped from Cape Mount.

We deeply sympathize with the President in his earnest desire to bring the individual aborigine into the Liberian social and economic order. He says:

"A second step is to encourage the native youth who come among us for training and civilization to become citizens by kind and considerate treatment, and by encouraging them to learn trades, or to take up and cultivate allotments from the public domain. Some progress has already been made in this direction but I am afraid that the importance of the policy is not generally understood. It must have been noticed the longer such youths live in our communities, the slighter becomes the hold upon them of the tribe to which they belong. What an opportunity has been given to the civilized population of forming a numerous, important, and useful body of civilized citizens of aboriginal extraction from the thousands, hundreds of thousands of boys who have been for the last sixty years placed in Americo-Liberian families? If the whole civilized population could have been awakened to the advantages placed in their reach for the

benefit of the State—in the native youths placed in their care, instead of four, we might now easily have fifteen or twenty thousand civilized citizens, and this with scarcely any expense to the State."

But this method has been tried by the Government and missionary societies for more than seventy years without success. Individuals, however carefully trained, disappear sooner or later into the community to which they belong. A Krooman is a Krooman, a Veyman is a Veyman and it is impossible to make him an American or an Americo-Liberian. The Liberian, strictly so called, is an infinitesimal portion of the elements constituting the State, but of the same race. He is not, like the European in South Africa, a dominant element, who by force and by racial antagonism can keep himself separate and aloof from the subject race and make laws for them without taking into consideration their system of society and government.

The proper policy of Liberia, it seems to us, is not to strive to make individuals different from their surroundings, and so make them impossible as guides and teachers of their people. This has been the fatal mistake in all missionary enterprises. The history of Liberia abounds in examples of such efforts, which have left no trace behind. The rulers of Liberia, it appears to us, should not despise but study the social and economic structure of native society, and take the people as a whole, not only the individuals, along with the improvements had in view. What is not good for the swarm is not good for the bee. The native represents the swarm, the Liberian the bee; and it is pathetic to see how the bee has been for nearly three generations trying to lead the swarm. The result must be, what it always has been, under such circumstances. Fifty years hence, if the conditions continue, the same hopeless struggle will go on. It is the case of the tail trying to wag the lion.

We are heartily in accord with the President, in his denunciation of the agitation for West African Congresses and that sort of thing. He says:

"We have nothing to do with what is going on in Lagos, Nigeria, French Guinea, or Sierra Leone. Our time should be taken up entirely with our own affairs, with the work we have in hand. We ought to avoid agitating for Negro West African

Congresses and that sort of thing. If anybody in the neighboring colonies is unduly oppressed we have already announced that Liberia is an asylum from the most grinding oppression. It is sufficient that the country is open to the Negro in Africa as well as to the Negro in exile."

This is the utterance of a genuine African statesman. The agitation for Pan-African congresses is not favored by the real leaders of African thought. This journal has always declined to take any part in discussions on this unnecessary and impolitic subject.

The President has some judicious remarks on the marriage customs, but here again the tail is trying to wag. The family is the basis of all national growth, and it must be organized upon lines natural to the climate and race, compulsory monogamy, in this climate, like Saturn, eats up its own children; under its cast iron laws there is neither growth from within nor expansion from without. This fact, we are glad to know, is being recognized more and more by leading minds in England and in this country.

We have no more space to give to these interesting State papers; but we are proud of them. They are evidence of the capacity of the Negro for wise statesmanship, and only prove what he would be and what he would do, if he were free from the metaphysics and dogmatism of Europe, which have been imposed upon him, and which in Europe itself are being repudiated by independent thinkers.—*Sierra Leone Weekly News.*

THE LIBERIAN LOAN AGREEMENT.

The agreement entered into by the Liberian Government with the Liberian Development Company, a copy of which is published in the *Sierra Leone Weekly News* of June 2, is characterised by a singular shortcoming and dubiousness as regards the maximum of the loan money of which it is supposed to form the contract.

The agreement provides as follows as regards the amount of £100,000 negotiated for by the Liberian Government as a loan:

"And whereas the company has determined to raise the sum of £100,000 by the issue of transferable registered certificates for various sums aggregating that amount entitling the holder to

interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum and to the 10 per cent. of the excess over £50,000 of the annual customs revenue hereinafter mentioned and to part of the net profits of the company derived from the sources hereinafter mentioned until the profits and other money distributed among such holders otherwise than on account of principal or interest shall amount to £100,000."

The application of the loan fund is set forth in the agreement as follows:

"The said £100,000 shall be applied as follows:

"£5,000 shall be applied in meeting any pressing obligations of the State of Liberia.

"£25,000 or such less sum as may be required for the purpose shall be applied in buying up and paying off or otherwise extinguishing the whole of the existing treasury notes of Liberia or at any rate all such rates as are accepted as legal tender in payment of customs duties and the balance shall be applied (*a*) to the construction of roads in Liberia in accordance with the road scheme; (*b*) in paying off or otherwise extinguishing the company's existing debentures and current liabilities not exceeding £7,000; (*c*) in furnishing working capital for the banking scheme or other business of the company."

The provisions stipulating for the payment of interest on the loan comprise the following:

"Upon the whole of the said £100,000 being raised the Liberian Government will as from the date of the receipt by it of the said sum of £5,000 and the provision of the said sum of £25,000 pay to the company in sterling gold in London annually the equivalent of 6 per cent. on £100,000 (that is to say, £6,000) per annum by equal half-yearly payments; the first half-yearly payment to be made on the expiration of nine calendar months from the date of receipt of the said £5,000 and the second half-yearly payment to be made on the expiration of twelve calendar months therefrom. The said half-yearly payments shall continue until there shall have been paid to the holders of such certificates out of the 10 per cent. of the excess over £50,000 of the annual customs revenue hereinafter referred to and out of the percentage hereinafter mentioned the net profits of the company derived by exercise of the privileges and powers conferred by the said

charter or otherwise therefrom (including profits from operations of the bank to be established under the bank scheme and the profits derived from or under the road scheme and also profits derived from or by virtue of any charter, license or concession hereafter to be granted to the company by the Liberian Government) sums amounting together to £100,000, provided that if such event shall happen during the currency of any half year the Government shall pay a due proportion of the half-yearly payment, having regard to the portion of the half year which may then have elapsed.

"2. Of the net profits of the company derived from the sources mentioned in the last preceding clause 50 per cent. should be allocated to be paid to the holders of the said certificates and the remaining 50 per cent. shall belong to the company and the aforesaid allocations and payment of profits shall continue until the holders of such certificates shall have received sums amounting in the aggregate to £100,000 out of the sources mentioned in the last preceding clause hereof. In ascertaining the net profits of the company derived as aforesaid for the purposes of this and the last preceding clause no account shall be taken of any amount received in respect of the 6 per cent. payable by the Liberian Government as aforesaid or in respect of the 10 per cent. of the excess over £50,000 of the annual customs revenue hereinafter referred to."

The foregoing embody the entire gist of the provisions under the agreement, and, as will be observed, no allusion whatever is made to the balance of £70,000 comprising the greater bulk of the loan either as regards its payment or purpose. The obvious construction which the agreement bears is that on the payment of £5,000 the Liberian Government becomes responsible for £100,000 and is forthwith liable for an annual interest of £6,000 on that sum in respect to which the most substantial guarantees are given. An agreement can hardly be regarded as complete which does not provide for the whole subject-matter for which it covenants; and the absence of any undertaking in respect to the greater portion of the loan and of any evidence of payment creating and justifying liability for the loan in the aggregate serves to impart an imperfectness and incompleteness to the agreement calculated to seriously impugn its validity. It is un-

intelligible how such an important omission should not have suggested itself to the Liberian authorities; and while, as is all but too obvious from the tenor of the agreement, the one dominating idea was to secure and protect the interest of one of the contracting parties, it does not appear to have been conceived that too much one-sidedness might avail to overbalance and destroy the just equation of the contract. At any rate in common justice to themselves it behooves that the people of Liberia should find out what is to become of the bulk of the £100,000 for which they have been made responsible; and they owe this duty all the more to themselves in view of the financial dilemma in which the Roye loan of 1871 placed them. The matter is not one involving political acumen at all, but is a simple matter of facts and figures. If the raising of the £100,000 entailed, as it must have, the usual flotation discount, this could not be more than 5 per cent., and which would amount to £5,000. There would remain a balance of £95,000, from which, if the sums of £5,000 and £25,000 respectively, the disposal of which is provided for in the agreement, were deducted, would still leave a balance of £65,000 to be accounted for. The whereabouts and purpose of this £65,000 require to be disclosed in the interest of justice to the Liberia Government as well as in the interests of the *bona fides* of the company and the integrity of the British Government, made indirectly a party to the loan agreement. Administrative capacity is denoted more, we think, in having the end prove adequate to and as justifying the means than in the mere providing of means, and especially so in the case of the moneylender, where the liability is so great of the means proving too dearly bought. And, independently of beguiling assurances, the duty devolves upon the people of Liberia to see that they get the £100,000 for which the country and Government are made responsible and held bail for upon the substantial guarantee of the revenue of the country supplemented with the seriously fettering condition of the control of the customs revenue passing into foreign hands.—*The Lagos Weekly Record.*

LIBERIA ENTERING NEW EPOCH—WHOLESALE EMIGRATION DISCOURAGED.

BISHOP JOSEPH C. HARTZELL.

The Methodist Episcopal Bishop for Africa, Rev. Joseph C. Hartzell, is very hopeful for the black Republic, in which the repatriated Afro-Americans and their descendants now number 38,000, and with a few thousand civilized natives form the governing class.

"Liberia, which has led, hitherto, a rather precarious existence," said the Bishop, "is now entering upon a new epoch. An English company has been granted large mining and rubber concessions, in return for which the Government has secured a loan of $500,000. With this sum it is intended to pay the debts of the Republic, to establish a national bank and to open up the interior."

Bishop Hartzell said he would not advocate the wholesale emigration of Afro-Americans from the Southern States. There are not openings in Liberia, he said, for many settlers, and trade and other conditions are unfavorable for the reception of many immigrants at a time.—*The Voice of the People.*

FINE BUSINESS CHANCES IN WASHINGTON.

ARCHIBALD H. GRIMKE.

Although the colored population is large in the District of Columbia, the results produced along money-making lines are disappointing. Even in cases where individuals have been successful their success has almost invariably fallen short of the full measure of their opportunities. For example, there is in the District a bakery run by colored people. There are other bakeries run by colored people, but this one which we now wish to speak of makes the best bread and pies in Washington. It ought to be a big success as a money-getter, but it is not. The people who run it make a living undoubtedly, and a comfortable one, but

that is all. They are not getting rich as they ought to get rich, turning out as they do bread and pies of such superior quality. The shop where such products are displayed and sold ought to be large, light and attractive, yet it has none of these points to recommend it to customers, but quite the contrary. The owners ought to be alert, solicitous to please, ingratiating in manner, but they are not. "Here," they seem to say to each buyer, "are our wares; they are the best in the city; if you do not want them or care to come for them when we are ready to deliver them, you may leave them. We pity you, but we shall not trouble ourselves any further about you. Your loss will doubtless prove somebody's gain. Ta, Ta!"

Several months ago the bakers of the city raised the price of bread. Our independent friends raised the price of their bread, too. As the rise in bread prices was due to a scarcity of flour, when this period of scarcity went by the bakers all over the city dropped the price of bread to the old figure. Not so our colored friends. The price of their bread has not fallen to the old figure, but continues to sell at the new! They seem in a sense to be doing their business outside of the limits of our modern competitive system. They are reaping a modicum of profit, of success undoubtedly, from this anomalous position, for they live, meet their bills when they are due, have a place to sleep in, clothes enough to wear, and food enough to eat. But are they getting ahead financially, have they a bank account, do they own the houses they occupy? We doubt it. One cannot accumulate property, forge ahead in the battle of life, who undertakes to do business in disregard of the laws which control the business world of today. Competition is the soul of trade. This is a truth which our business men have got to learn, and that right speedily. Our labor of every description has got to wake up to the tremendous fact that it is in sharp competition with others for employment, for existence itself.

We know a gentleman living in this city who prefers to employ colored labor to do odd jobs about his house because colored labor does not get a square deal in the industrial world. He called in a workman of this class the other day to make some repairs on his latrobes. The labor required was skilled labor. But the man whom he employed to do the work professed to be a

skilled workman along the lines needed. He came, essayed to do what he was employed to do, and failed. He was either very negligent or lacked the knowledge, the skill, which he advertised himself to possess. The latrobes gave better results before he came than after he left. And yet he charged the same for his poor work as a white workman charges for good work. What is going to happen to the poor colored workman in competition with good white workmen? Why, he is going to the wall. He will year after year win less bread for himself, for those dependent on him. He and all of his tribe are doomed to failure, to industrial extinction, for people who once employed him will employ him no more. He is going to fail because the chance and the place in the workaday world which are now his he will forfeit to others better prepared to seize them and to hold them than himself.

It has not been many weeks ago that a distinguished colored leader was lamenting to me the passing of the colored bootblack in Washington. He remembered the time when the colored bootblack had in his humble way a monopoly, or at least the lion's share of his art and occupation. It is not so today, for the Italian bootblack has come and has largely displaced him with superior methods and by the more thorough way of doing the work of shining shoes. This gentleman does not think there survive more than six boot-blacking parlors owned and run now by colored men. All the others have been driven by Italian competitors from the field. All that now remains of the colored bootblack on the street are a few chairs or stands and the peripatetic tribe of street Arabs, who turn a chance nickel once in a while from people who pity them and who want them to have a square deal, or from others whose necessities throw them on their tender mercies.

This colored leader—who, by the way, belongs to the radical wing of the race—told us of his own experience in the employment of colored bootblacks, how apt they are to scamp their work, making a pretty good show on the front part of his boots while neglecting the back. Our friend says that he has invariably to keep a sharp eye on the job; otherwise he would come out of the ordeal with a shine in front and none behind! Is it surprising under such circumstances that the colored bootblack has been

beaten by the Italian in the struggle for trade, for existence in the District of Columbia? If the colored workman will understand that what is worth doing at all, be it ever so humble, is worth doing well, he will learn labor has to learn in its struggle for bread, for survival in the American workaday world. Otherwise it will go to the wall before rivals who do understand its supreme importance and are utilizing the lesson at every point of contact and conflict between them and colored labor to the hurt or destruction of the latter.

Another thing we find immensely sobering, if not immensely discouraging, in the situation here is the colored servant girl problem, the colored servant girl problem for colored householders, we mean. Here we have a very large colored population seeking employment, fighting their battle for bread. Many of these people are in service among white people. Many of them, however, form, on the other hand, a large, an altogether too large, idle class. How many of them manage to subsist without visible means of support it is difficult to understand. Many of them could find employment at service in colored families. But for colored families in need of domestic help they offer hardly any relief at all. The two needs, the need of domestic help on the part of well-to-do colored families and the need of employment on the part of a lot of indigent colored women, do not seem to follow the normal movements of demand and supply, for the colored women who have a supply of labor to offer are not disposed to offer the same to other colored women who want that labor in the way of household service.

Why is this so? Because colored domestic labor does not want to take service in colored families. The most of these people would do anything else than do that. They are ashamed to have it known among their class that they are doing household work for colored people. And it matters not to such a colored servant class how refined and wealthy such a colored employer class may be. They would rather go into service with common and ignorant whites than with their own people. A colored family was in need of some one to do the family washing one week, and the father went in search of help. He found a colored washerwoman and requested her services. "Well," replied the Madonna of the washtubs, "I sho' can't 'bleege you, sah, 'cause I'se nevah been

interduced to yo' wife." And that is the trouble. The colored servant does not want to work for a colored family because she considers herself their equal in all respects, owing to the identity of her race and color with theirs. She would rather be idle, she would rather starve, she would rather live amid the lowest slum conditions, she would rather do even worse things than work as a servant for people whose race and color happen to be the same as her own. Of course we are speaking broadly of a class, not of all the individuals comprising it, for there are exceptions, but these exceptions serve to prove the rule that the colored servant class has adopted the white race's contempt for colored people, and reflects by its own action the worst prejudices of the whites.

Before closing we wish to recur to the industrial and financial situation in Washington. The field for big race enterprises in the District, notwithstanding many adverse circumstances, is white for the harvest. What is wanting to reap the full crop of golden opportunities just now are men of enterprise and organizing ability. It is not money that is wanting, for there is money enough among the colored people of substance here to exploit the city commercially along race lines. It is not brains, education, intelligence of a high order which are wanting to take advantage of the opportunities for growing rich beyond the dreams of avarice, for Washington has a-plenty of brains, education, and intelligence among its large colored population to do wonders in a business way for the race.

What is there wanting? The power of initiative, the ability to inspire popular confidence in Afro-American enterprises where it has already been so disastrously shaken. Colored Washington needs the courage, the character, the liberality to get together, organize, and launch some well-considered enterprise and the stick-to-itiveness to win success. More can be achieved in a business way in the District, were the right man or men to appear upon the scene, than has been achieved in Richmond in the same line, for the field here is larger and the possibilities are greater.

Who in Washington will take the initiative and begin to do things in a mercantile way, to do business here in some large way according to sound business principles and methods and so succeed in capturing a part at least of the large trade of the large Afro-American population of the city? All of this trade goes at

present into white mercantile and financial establishments, helping to furnish employment of a clerical and other nature for young white men and women, from which young colored men and women are excluded because of their race. In such ventures, enterprises, there are tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands of dollars for the colored men who shall have the initiative, the integrity and the ability to start and conduct them aright, and at the same time there will grow up out of the successes of these colored captains of industry employment for hundreds and thousands of our young colored men and women, and their consequent training in correct business principles and methods.—*New York Age.*

STEAMSHIP SERVICE WITH LIBERIA.

I transmit the record kept in this office of the arrival of foreign steamships at the port of Monrovia in the month of January as information that may facilitate the movements of travelers in this direction. It discloses the absence of American vessels from these waters, which is very much to be regretted. The proposed line of steamers by the New York and Liberia Steamship Company, an American enterprise, will be hailed with delight by most people in this Republic.

Arrival of Steamships at Monrovia, Liberia, in the Month of January,

Steamship.	Nationality.	Date.
Adolph W	German	Jan. 1
Marc Frassinei	French	2
Edward Bohlen	German	2
Prinz Regent	"	4
Gretchen Bohlen	"	8
Kurt W	"	8
Benin	English	9
America W	German	9
Batanga	English	10
Leopoldville	Belgian	11
Warri	English	11
Gretchen Bohlen	German	13
Ilaro	"	13
Mandingo	"	14
Lucia W	"	14

Arrival of Steamships at Monrovia—Continued.

Steamspip.	Nationality.	Date.
Angola	English	Jan. 16
Paul	German	16
Luther Bohlen	"	17
Ella W.	"	17
Elenora W.	"	17
Helene W.	"	18
Pres. Barclay	"	19
Jebba	English	21
Myanga	"	22
Tibet	French	23
Lirbeck	German	23
Lucie W.	"	23
Benguela	English	24
Pres. Barclay	German	24
Kahliff	"	26
Loanda	English	26
Goldfinch	"	27
Pres. Barclay	German	27
Ascie W.	"	28
Sapele	English	30

The arrivals according to nationality were: German, 22; English, 10; French, 2; Belgian, 1. There has been an increase of four vessels since about this time in 1901, when there were 31 vessels in the service, which indicates an increase in the volume of trade between Liberia and the countries represented.—*Ernest Lyon, Consul-General, Monrovia, Liberia.*

ITEMS.

The Repurlic of Liberia.—Trade and commerce between the United States and Liberia should have prospered, but they have dwindled almost to the vanishing point. Liberia has been unprogressive, yet England and Germany are selling goods there. Liberia is rich in agricultural resources, and their development, with the low-priced labor available, is bound to come from some source. Consul General Lyon, of Monrovia, covers the situation in Liberia in the following report:

"The Republic of Liberia contains an area of 45,000 square miles. It has 350 miles of coast line. The population is estimated at 2,000,000, one-tenth American negroes, the remainder natives. The

history of Liberia dates back to 1820, when the American Colonization Society, formed in Washington, with Henry Clay* as president, founded the colony of Liberia for emancipated negroes, and gave them favorable opportunity for self-improvement."

The country is well adapted to agriculture, the principal products being coffee, cotton, piassava, cocoa, rubber, nuts, and fruits. There are magnificent forests unworked. Twenty-two different kinds of rubber trees are found, and camwood is plentiful. Gold and silver exist in paying quantities. The cultivation of the soil is neglected, and the product is scanty. The absence of public highways and the present unnavigable condition of the rivers and lakes render travel difficult. The country needs capital; its introduction would revolutionize existing conditions by creating a demand for skilled labor and conveniences enjoyed by the inhabitants of other centers. Labor receives as compensation only 24 cents per day, together with rations, which consist of 1 quart of rice and 1 pound of dried fish. The aborigines are the only means of transportation and communication to and from the interior of the country.

The trade of Liberia is small, and divided principally between Germany, England, Holland, and the United States, with the preponderance in favor of Germany. The imports from Germany for the six months ended June 30, 1905, were $158,875; exports thither, $204,703. Imports from England, $141,243, and exports thither, $88,195. Holland sold Liberia $12,831, and bought $1,543. The United States sold her $3,604, and took $2,008.

Cotton manufactures and rice are the chief articles of importation. Over $50,000 worth of cotton goods were bought of England, Germany, and other countries in the six months ended with June, 1905, and only $133 worth from the United States. About the same amount in value of rice was purchased of the same countries, though none was obtained from the United States. Lack of transportation facilities to the United States interferes with trade.

The same crude methods of farming that were in vogue centuries ago still exist. The plow is seldom, if ever, used, and the hoe and knife are the chief implements of agriculture. The proper cultivation of the rubber tree would bring great wealth. Cotton grows everywhere in the interior, and with proper cultivation would yield enormously. The soil of Liberia is eminently adapted to the cultivation of rice, and seven kinds are grown.

The outlook for Liberia from a commercial and industrial view point is discouraging. The country has been practically abandoned by its alma mater, and seems to exist only for the purpose of being exploited by European countries.

Consul General Guenther, of Frankfort, quotes the report of the

*Henry Clay was President of the American Colonization Society from 1836 to 1852.

well-known African explorer, Harry Johnston, to the effect that the Republic of Liberia, Africa, possesses an almost unlimited supply of rubber trees.

This news, he writes, is all the more remarkable, as heretofore Liberia exported hardly any caoutchouc. Johnston stated in a lecture before a company which has received a concession for the production of rubber in Liberia, that an extraordinary amount of that article is to be found there, that it only awaits collection, and that he did not hesitate to say that within six years 2,500,000 of cultivated rubber trees, furnishing an excellent quality of rubber, will be yielding sap.

Another report states that at least 20,000 English square miles are covered with dense rubber-tree forests. It is also stated that various creepers are found there containing rubber which heretofore have been unknown. Should these reports be based on facts, the rubber industry will be greatly benefited.—*Monthly Consular and Trade Reports, March*, 1906.

Biographical Sketch of the Reverend and Hon. Robert B. Richardson, D. D., LL. D., Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia and President of Liberia College.—He is the youngest son of the late Rev. and Hon. Jno. T. Richardson, late Judge of the Court of Quarter Sessions of Montserrado county, and his late wife, Julia A. Richardson. He was born in the city of Monrovia on the 11th day of December, 1851. He was educated at Liberia College, under Dr. E. W. Blyden, Prof. M. H. Freeman, M. A., and Prof. H. R. W. Johnson, LL. D. He graduated November, 1873, and was immediately employed by the agent of the American Baptist Missionary Union as teacher of the school located in Virginia, on the St. Paul river, known as the Baptist Training School, which he taught until 1876.

In the year 1878 he was clothed with the full ministerial orders of the Baptist Church.

In the year 1881, by the Board of Trustees, he was elected Principal of the Preparatory Department of Liberia College, and served two years.

In 1887 he was elected Principal of Rick's Institute by the Board of Managers of the Liberia Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, and served there thirteen years.

In the year 1892 he was commissioned by the late President Cheeseman Commissioner of Public Education for Montserrado County, in which capacity he served two years.

In 1895, under the same administration, he was appointed Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

In the year 1902, by the unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees of Liberia College, he was elected President of Liberia College, to

succeed Dr. G. W. Gibson, who had been called to the Presidency of the Nation.

The last two named positions he still holds. He is also the President of the Liberia Baptist Missionary Convention.

AFRICA FOR THE AFRICANS—ATTEMPTS TO SUPPRESS NATIVES HASTEN DAY OF THEIR CONTROL.—Already the colored man is a formidable force in the game of party politics in one—and the oldest—South African colony. The native vote in this colony has become so large, and the natives are pressing their numerical advantage so strongly, that the whites have already raised the question of a suffrage limitation to save themselves from political annihilation. But it is clear enough that this expedient will not save them. The population of Cape Colony, including the territories, is in round numbers 1,200,000, and the white population 377,000. Day by day the power of the native grows. The gate of the political arena stands wide open to him, and he is not slow to enter. The Negroes everywhere are a remarkably fecund race, and they are increasing relatively, much faster than the whites. Africa is first of all the black man's country, and all that climatic conditions and the congenial environment of a native habitat can do to help him in his struggle upward are there.

To all other influences now tending to the development of the Negro to a higher social and political rank must be added the force of education. For in South Africa, as in this country, the Negroes "take" to education with remarkable readiness and success. According to the Cape Government educational report, published three months ago, the actual number of children receiving education in the public schools of the colony at the end of last year was 91,313 colored and 60,849 white. The natives are awakening from the slumber of centuries, and there is no more remarkable feature of this awakening than their almost insatiable thirst for knowledge. Cape Colony and the territories are literally covered with native schools, the territories alone having several hundred. These schools are manned very largely by native teachers who have passed one or other of the Cape University qualifying examinations.

All this means, in brief, and in plain language, that South Africa is surely destined at no distant day to come under native rule, to be governed by Negroes for Negroes. Attempts at disenfranchisement and limitations of the suffrage will only hasten the day of Negro supremacy.—*Norman Notwood, in Leslie's Weekly.*

THE NEW ISSUE OF LIBERIAN POSTAGE STAMPS comprises a very unique series of thirteen values, from one cent to five dollars, all save one being bi-color, designed, engraved, and printed from steel plates by Perkins, Bacon & Co., Ltd., so well known for their beautiful productions, since they engraved for the British postage stamps in 1840.

Sir Harry Johnston, formerly High Commissioner for Uganda, has furnished some of the designs from illustrations in his new book "Liberia," which give lifelike productions of birds, animals, and reptiles found in the Republic of Liberia. Another, from the same source, shows two of the native "Mandingoes," and makes one of the prettiest stamps of the series.

The Republic's flag, with the motto, "The love of liberty brought us here," and a minute portrait of President Barclay, with a view of the Executive Mansion at Monrovia, serve for two of the stamps, but probably the 25 cents, with a beautifully engraved reproduction of the quarter-dollar coin, with Head of Liberty, will be considered the gem of the collection. A head of Mercury, and another of Liberty, and a one-color stamp of white-line machine work, complete the list. The frames surrounding the vignettes are mostly treated in a novel and unconventional manner, producing a decidedly pleasing effect, and the "Lone Star" of the Republic appears on every design, without exception.

The printing and gumming are of the high class to be expected from the firm mentioned, while the perforation is from comb machines, being fourteen, both for the ten smaller values and for the ten-dollar values, which are slightly larger.

The colors chosen are very effective, and in most cases different ones are used for the surcharged stamps. The surcharged O. S. is in writing style, and is placed in one of the upper corners of the stamp so as not to obliterate the design.

The Designs and Colors.—The 1, 2, and 5 cents, being most largely used, are printed in sheets of fifty, the others being in sheets of twenty.

Altogether, we think the Republic, as well as the engravers, may be congratulated upon the issue of a most artistic series of postage stamps.

We append a list of the designs and colors:

1 cent, African elephant, black and green, and also surcharged O. S. in red.

2 cents, head of Mercury, black and carmine, and also surcharged O. S. in blue.

6 cents, chimpanzee, black and dark blue, and surcharged O. S. in black.

10 cents, plantain eater, maroon and black and amethyst; surcharged O. S. in red.

15 cents, agama lizard, dark green and purple and black chocolate brown; surcharged O. S. in black.

20 cents, great egret, black and orange and black and dark green; surcharged O. S. in red.

25 cents, coin of same value, gray and Chinese blue, gray, and Tyrian purple; surcharged O. S. in red.

30 cents, machine engraving, and figure of value violet and dark brown; surcharged O. S. in black.

50 cents, Liberian flag, black and dark green and green and terra cotta; surcharged O. S. in green.

75 cents, Liberian hippopotamus, black and chocolate brown and black and light blue; surcharged O. S. in black.

1 dollar, head of Liberty, gray and pink and gray and dark green; surcharged O. S. in red.

2 dollars, mandingoes, black and dark and black and Tyrian purple; surcharged O. S. in blue.

5 dollars, head of President Barclay and Executive Mansion, dark gray and maroon and dark gray and orange; surcharged O. S. in black.—*The Liberian Recorder.*

The Working of Rubber Estates.—We are requested to publish the following:

Sir: The reply to "Puzzled Investor's" inquiry as to the discrepancies of the forecasts for rubber-growing in Ceylon and Liberia appears to be as follows:

1. In Ceylon the rubber trees are mostly *Heva braziliensis*, imported, as the name implies, from Brazil.

1. In Liberia rubber is a native of the soil, which naturally grows over 27 species of rubber trees.

2. In Ceylon the trees have been grown by planters, who, usually growing catch crops also, have planted at such distances as they believe will suit the needs of the tree, to judge by its growth in Brazil.

2. In Liberia nature has acquired the experience which Ceylon desires, and has intermingled different varieties of rubber trees and vines, making vast rubber forests.

3. In Ceylon the culture of tea, cocoa, and coffee has raised the price of labor and educated it.

3. In Liberia the price of labor has been both unraised and uneducated.

4. Ceylon, having better trained labor and better appliances, can produce a class of rubber yielding a profit, to which

4. Liberia may attain as soon as money has been spent there as it has been in Ceylon.

In short, Liberia has the greater experience in the growth of rubber, and Ceylon the greater experience in both collection and treatment.—*The Times.*

Alfred Beit, who was the first British billionaire and the head of the South African diamond trust, died in London, Monday, July 16. He was a generous benefactor, having endowed a university at Hamburg and contributed to several Methodist missions. He gave Bishop

Hartzell, not long since, his check for one thousand pounds for the work in Rhodesia.—*Southwestern Christian Advocate.*

Agriculture in Liberia.—The soil of Liberia, as has been well proved, is well adapted to the growing of cabbage, and the Liberian cabbage, especially the flat Dutch, or drumhead.

The wild grapes found in the forests of Liberia can be so improved by modern methods as to become a sweet, luscious fruit.

The recent experiment in tobacco cultivation by Mr. C. F. Cæsar, of the settlement of Virginia, has proved beyon da doubt that tobacco-growing can be made a profitable commercial staplé in the country.

Our coffee growers will do well to pay more attention to the farming and practical cultivation of their farms, thereby increasing the quality of the bean and quantity of the crop produced.—*African Agricultural World.*

Prof. T. McCants Stewart, of New York, U. S. A., and family arrived at Monrovia on the 11th instant. We are pleased to know that he is now a full-fledged Liberian citizen.

A very warm reception was given at the parlors of Rt. Rev. S. D. Ferguson, on the 21st instant, in his honor, at which a goodly number of citizens were present, an account of which will appear in our July issue.—*The African Agricultural World, June,* 1906.

Negroes in the South.—J. W. Lyons delivered an address last night at the St. James Presbyterian Church. He discussed at considerable length the important part the colored people are playing in the industrial development of the late slave-holding States. He showed from statistics furnished by the census office that farms owned or controlled and operated by colored farmers in the South are more than twice as productive in proportion to the area cultivated as the farms operated by white farmers.

In the production of cotton, sugar cane, rice, manufactured tobacco, and cotton-seed oil they again figure in the most creditable manner, as to per capita productivity.

In regard to illiteracy, he argued from the report furnished by the Bureau of Statistics that now less than 44½ per cent. of the colored people are illiterate. This illiteracy of the colored people he compared to the illiteracy of several of the European states, where the people have been free "from the time whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary," as follows:

"In Hungary the illiteracy is 47.8 per cent.; in Portugal, 79.2 per cent.; in Spain, 68.1 per cent.; in Russia, 61.7 per cent.; in Servia, 79.3 per cent., and in Roumania, 88.4 per cent."

He then said: "The colored people of the United States have been emancipated but one generation from slavery, yet have they outstripped European races in reducing their illiteracy, races who labor under no such handicaps as people of color are forced to contend with here. If this is not speed on the part of the colored man, what would you say of the people just mentioned?" The speaker quoted with commendation extensively from the letters of Mr. William E. Curtis:

"But man does not live by bread alone. He is not happy, and will not be, if his civil and political privileges are abated one iota. The wealth of a Crœsus will not compensate for the illegally withdrawn or restricted ballot; for the infliction of the 'Jim Crow' cars; the practice of peonage and numerous other degrading and odious discriminations. Liberty and equality before the law has been the pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night that has guided this nation through the shoals, quicksands, and storms of the past; and woe unto us when we shall become indifferent to these virtues.

"Thirty-nine years ago General Garfield said: 'The spirit of our government demands that there shall be no rigid horizontal strata running across our political society, through which some classes of citizens may never pass up to the surface; but it shall be rather like the ocean, where every drop can seek the surface and glisten in the sun. Until we are true enough and brave enough to declare in this country that the humblest and the meanest of our citizens shall not be prevented from passing to the highest place he is worthy to attain, we shall never realize freedom in all of its glorious meanings. We must give full force and effect to the provision that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. We must make it as true in fact as it is in law that "The citizens of each State shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States." We must make American citizenship the shield that protects every citizen on every foot of our soil.'

"Pursuant to the broad and patriotic plan thus outlined by the soldier statesman, the nation proceeded to enact such laws as it was thought would meet every emergency of citizenship; and, viewing the situation after a lapse of thirty years, I do not see how the Republic could have improved the guarantees and defenses of the sacred right."

Mr. Lyons closed his remarks upon the practical disfranchisement of the Negro in the South with another extract from the speech of Garfield:

"I know of nothing more dangerous to a Republic than to put into its very midst four million people stripped of the rights of citizenship, robbed of the right of representation, but bound to pay taxes to the government. If they can endure it, we cannot. The murderer is to be pitied more than the murdered man; the robber more than the robbed; and we who defraud four million citizens of their rights are

injuring ourselves vastly more than we are injuring those whom we defraud. I say that the inequality of rights before the law, which is now a part of our system, is more dangerous to us than to the black man whom it disfranchises. It is like a foreign substance in the body, a thorn in the flesh; it will wound and disease the body politic."—*The Evening Star.*

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